



BADGER STATE

# SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 29th Year  
Single Copy: \$1.25

Return Address:  
Kenneth A. Ebner  
822 Wauona Trail  
Portage, WI 53901

STANDARD MAIL  
Forwarding and  
Return Postage Guaranteed Address  
Correction Requested

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #265  
Portage WI 53901

Vol. 28 No. 7 • 339th Consecutive Monthly Issue • Baraboo, Wisconsin • July 1998

## ARRL asks FCC to deny LMCC 70cm grab

The ARRL has asked the FCC to immediately dismiss efforts by the Land Mobile Communications Council to gain primary access to 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz as well as other UHF allocations. The LMCC recently petitioned the FCC to reallocate the two 70-cm segments from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service. Amateur Radio enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis. In comments filed on RM-9267, the League said the LMCC proposed the switch "without establishing technical compatibility between PMRS operation and incumbent radio services in any of the bands sought."

The League said that existing federal government use of the spectrum precludes PMRS operation at 420 to 450 MHz. According to the ARRL, the petition fails to demonstrate any basis to withdraw the two band segments from federal use, nor any compatibility between PMRS operation and either federal government or amateur use. In addition, the League said, the petition fails to justify displacing established amateur operations. The League pointed out that the amateur community uses the band for public service and public safety functions and that hams have "substantial personal investment" in equipment that's in regular use there. The ARRL urged the Commission to throw out this portion of the LMCC petition "without further consideration."

The League backed up its arguments by citing documents from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which manages federal spectrum. "NTIA has made it quite clear that there is no possibility of additional sharing of the 420-450 MHz band, and the unique relationship between Federal radiolocation uses and the Amateur Service cannot be duplicated by PMRS users," the ARRL said.

The ARRL said that the LMCC petition was premature because it did not take adequate account of the benefits of spectrum refarming already initiated. The League suggested that PMRS users adopt available spectrum-efficient technologies to maximize their use of existing allocations before seeking additional spectrum at the expense of other users. The League also said that PMRS users should look into using the Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS).

A copy of the League's comments is available at <http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/RM-9267/arrl-cmt.html>. Selected comments on RM-9267 also have been posted to the ARRL Web site.

The ARRL Letter, 6/5/98

## Amateur Radio from the Stratosphere

By Bryan Suits, WB8WKN

Amateur Radio once again played a key role in the success of the annual Rockets for Schools event on the shore of Lake Michigan in Sheboygan, Wisconsin this May. The event included the launch of many smaller high-power rockets as well as two sub-orbital Super Loki rockets. In addition to several ham radio payloads in smaller rockets built by high school student groups from Wisconsin and Michigan, both payloads for the Super Loki rockets used Amateur Radio transmitters.

The 3rd annual MI/WI Rockets for Schools two day event took place in Sheboygan the weekend of May 16th, 1998. The first day included presentations from local officials and a NASA astronaut, as well as judging of high-power rockets built during the school year by high school teams. The second day was launch day. Approximately thirty of the high-power rockets were launched with a typical peak

altitude of 3500 ft. The launch day was concluded with the launch of two sub-orbital Super Loki sounding rockets to an altitude of approximately 34 miles, as well as several special project launches by members of the Tripoli Rocketry Association, one of which briefly provided beautiful Amateur Television (ATV) pictures of Sheboygan.

The Super Loki payloads must survive an initial acceleration of 60 g's during which time the rocket goes from 0 to five times the speed of sound (Mach 5) in just 2 seconds. After coasting for 2 minutes, the payloads are shot out of the rocket by an explosive charge into the cold vacuum of the stratosphere. The rocket is launched from a small rail which gives the rocket a spin of just over 1000 RPM during the first tenth of one second of the launch. The payloads are the size of a paper towel roller and weigh just under one pound.

Please turn to page 6

## Many comment on LMCC petition

Hundreds of formal comments have been filed in the wake of the Land Mobile Communications Council's rulemaking petition (RM-9267) seeking primary access to 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz for the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) at the expense of the federal government. The petition also seeks other UHF spectrum. It's now expected that the FCC will extend the comment deadline on the LMCC petition.

Among formal commenters, those weighing in on the side of Amateur Radio—at least in terms of preserving the current secondary (shared) allocation on 70 cm for ham use—included the ARRL (see "ARRL asks FCC to deny LMCC 70 cm grab," The ARRL Letter, Vol 17, No. 23); the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which manages federal spectrum; the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA); the Amateur Television Network; the Sarpy County, Nebraska, Emergency Management Agency; the Washtenaw County, Michigan, Emergency Management Division; the DiPaolo Timber Corporation; AMSAT-NA, and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO). All cited the public service benefit derived from volunteer Amateur Radio operations in the event of emergencies and disasters.

Washtenaw County Director of Emer-

gency Management Marc Breckenridge called 440 to 450 MHz "a priceless resource to emergency management organizations" and said its reallocation would not be in the public interest. DiPaolo Timber CEO Carl DiPaolo, W7EXH, likened the sharing arrangement by hams and the federal government to "multiple use of the forests, many citizen users sharing a resource." DiPaolo went on to say, "Once the PMRS users get to the frequency area, it is lost forever." There's "no way" amateurs could be secondary to PMRS, he concluded.

AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan, W3XO, mentioned use of 70 cm for the upcoming Phase 3D satellite and pointed out that the International Space Station is expected to make "heavy use" of the band for Amateur Radio. Ham radio is an official ISS payload. In all, AMSAT-NA cited more than a dozen examples of current and future amateur use of 70cm.

See:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/regs/rm9267c1.html>.

But it was the NTIA that spoke the loudest in favor of retaining the current federal-amateur sharing arrangement on 70 cm. The NTIA said it supports amateur

Continued on page 7

# Happy 4th of July!

## FLIPPING THE PAGES

What's Happening: Edited by Ken Ebner, K9EN	2
Here and There	4, 5
The Computer Corner	6
Wisconsin Valley Radio Association	10
Racine Megacycle Club	10
Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.	10
ManCoRad Radio Club	11
Watts Snoo (Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs at UW-Stevens Point)	11
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club	11
Red Cedar Repeater Association	12
Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club	12
Washington County Amateur Radio Club	12
Quarter Century Wireless Association - Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162	12
Wisconsin Association of Repeaters	13
Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association (WAPR)	14
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club	15





# WHAT'S HAPPENING

✂ Swapfests and Other Social Events ✂ Club Meetings  
✂ Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebneter@palacenet.net

## Swapfests and Other Social Events

**SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1998.** South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, American Legion Park, Shepard Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI. Starting at 6:00 a.m. Tickets \$5.00, Food, drinks, Camping, etc. Contact South Milwaukee ARC, P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. (414) 762-3235.

**SATURDAY JULY 11, 1998.** Eau Claire ARC 15th annual Hamfest & Computer Expo., Eau Claire County Exposition Center, Eau Claire WI. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Advance setup available. VE exams. Contact: Jim Staats, WB9RBP, (715) 838-9108 wb9rbp@aol.com or Carol Ceraso, N9UTA, (715) 723-9205 ceraz@cncpc.com ECARC, PO Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867.

**SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1998.** Racine Amateur Radio and Computer Show. South Hills Country Club, I-94, East Frontage Road between Highway 20 and Highway K. Contact: RMC, PO Box 3, Racine, WI 53401.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1998.** The Marshfield Area Radio Society will be holding their 7th annual picnic in the park, Hamnic potluck dinner and swapfest at Wildwood Park. Gather around 11:00 a.m. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Christopher Strong, KB9NMH OR Guy Boucher, 107 West Third Street, Marshfield WI 54449. (715) 384-4323. Via packet radio to KF9XXX@W9IHW.E5.AI.WI.USA.NA or e-mail guyboucher@tznnet.com

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1998.** Hamfesters Hamfest, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. Contact: David F. Brasel, NF9N, 6933 W. 110 Street, Worth, IL 60482. (708) 44-0580. Amateur Radio Info Line (708) 535 AHAM.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1998.** Circus City Swapfest, Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo WI. Contact: Steve Schulze, N9UDO, (608) 356-2313/356-4777 or Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, (608) 643-6908/643-6453. <http://www.thelorax.com/~ssschulze/hamfest.htm>

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1998.** International Order of bOZo's 2nd Hamradio and Computer Fest, at Tommy's Village

Lanes, Hwy 57, North, Hilbert, WI. Contact: Mike Ortlieb, KN9P, W2104 Crosstown Rd., Hilbert, WI 54129. (920) 853-7073.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 1998.** Peoria Area ARC SUPERFEST, Exposition Gardens, Peoria IL. Contact: Superfest '98, P.O. Box 3508, Peoria IL 61616-3508.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 & 27.** RADIO EXPO 98. Lake County Fairgrounds Rts. 45 & 120, Grayslake, IL. Contact: Chicago FM Club, PO Box 56724, Harwood Hts, IL. 560656-0724. (708) 457-0966. <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1998.** Fox Cities Hamfest, Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 North of Kaukauna, WI. Contact: Chad Pennings, N9PRC, 1912 Russett Ct., Apt. 7, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 993-0485.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1999.** West Allis Radio Amateur Club, 27th Annual Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact: WARAC, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1072.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1999.** Red Cedar Repeater Association Auction. American Legion Post 53, 634 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI. Contact: Steve Hart, KA9OMC, E616 810th Ave., Knapp, WI 54749. (715) 665-2374.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1999.** MARA Swapfest, Madison, WI. Middleton Conference Center. (Same place as last year, but new name.) Contact: MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890.

See also the back page and flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

### Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

### Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.

This newspaper is produced by volunteer radio amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

*Badger State Smoke Signals* is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

### Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

## CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the March 1998 meetings column for the latest complete listing. There have been no changes reported to BSSS since that listing.

## The Test Point



*Amateur Radio Examination Locations  
and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area*

July 04, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
July 04, 1998	St. Paul, MN
July 09, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
July 11, 1998	Blaine, MN
July 11, 1998	Madison, WI
July 11, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
July 15, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
July 18, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
July 18, 1998	Loves Park, IL
July 21, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
July 25, 1998	Bloomington, MN
July 25, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
July 25, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
August 01, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
August 01, 1998	St. Paul, MN
August 08, 1998	Blaine, MN
August 08, 1998	Madison, WI
August 08, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
August 13, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
August 15, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
August 15, 1998	Loves Park, IL
August 15, 1998	Redgranite, WI
August 18, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
August 22, 1998	Bloomington, MN
August 29, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
August 29, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
September 05, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
September 05, 1998	Racine, WI
September 05, 1998	St. Paul, MN
September 10, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
September 12, 1998	Blaine, MN
September 12, 1998	Madison, WI
September 12, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
September 12, 1998	Onalaska, WI
September 12, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
September 15, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
September 19, 1998	Appleton, WI
September 19, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
September 19, 1998	Loves Park, IL
September 19, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
September 26, 1998	Bloomington, MN
September 26, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
September 26, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
October 03, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
October 03, 1998	Racine, WI
October 03, 1998	St. Paul, MN
October 08, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
October 10, 1998	Blaine, MN
October 10, 1998	Eau Claire, WI
October 10, 1998	Madison, WI
October 10, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
October 17, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
October 17, 1998	Loves Park, IL
October 17, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
October 17, 1998	Redgranite, WI
October 20, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
October 24, 1998	Bloomington, MN
October 31, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 31, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
November 01, 1998	Kaukauna, WI
November 07, 1998	Menomonie, WI
November 07, 1998	Onalaska, WI
November 07, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
November 07, 1998	Racine, WI
November 07, 1998	St. Paul, MN
November 12, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
November 14, 1998	Blaine, MN

## Badger State Smoke Signals

*Amateur Radio  
Education and Information*

**CHAIRMAN:** Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. kebneter@palacenet.net

**ACTING EDITOR:** Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412½ Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (608) 356-4031. InterNet e-mail: smokesigs@baraboo.com

**TREASURER:** Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

### Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
2 years	(24 issues - save \$1.95)	\$25.95
3 years	(36 issues - save \$3.90)	\$37.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

### When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

November 14, 1998 Madison, WI  
November 14, 1998 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)  
November 17, 1998 Eden Prairie, MN  
November 18, 1998 Sheboygan, WI  
November 21, 1998 Cottage Grove, MN  
November 21, 1998 Loves Park, IL  
November 21, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
November 28, 1998 Bloomington, MN  
November 28, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)  
November 28, 1998 Tomahawk, WI  
December 05, 1998 Oshkosh (Omro), WI  
December 05, 1998 Racine, WI  
December 05, 1998 St. Paul, MN  
December 10, 1998 Apple Valley, MN  
December 12, 1998 Blaine, MN  
December 12, 1998 Madison, WI  
December 12, 1998 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)  
December 15, 1998 Eden Prairie, MN  
December 19, 1998 Cottage Grove, MN  
December 19, 1998 Loves Park, IL  
December 19, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
December 19, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
December 19, 1998 Redgranite, WI  
December 26, 1998 Bloomington, MN  
January 23, 1999 Appleton, WI  
January 16, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
February 20, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
March 20, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
April 15, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
Monthly, 1st Sat. Racine, WI  
(except January, July & August)  
Monthly, 1st Sat. Oshkosh (Omro), WI  
Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN  
Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN  
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)  
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI  
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN  
Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN  
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Milwaukee, WI (BE)  
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL  
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN  
Monthly, 4th Sat. Bloomington, MN Monthly,  
Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)  
(except December)  
Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI  
(January thru October only)  
Quarterly Eau Claire, WI  
(Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.)  
plus annual summer hamfest.)

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

#### GENERAL RULES

##### FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32c/ SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.35 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.html>

By checking this page, a person can find out registered VE sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC, it is a master database. (Thanks to KB9EQI for information.)

#### MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC)

SECOND SATURDAY - OAK CREEK, WI

LAST SATURDAY - MILWAUKEE, WI

SECOND SATURDAY DATE: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wauwatosa Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27th St., Oak Creek, WI.

LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Note: For Additional Information: Call (414) 466-HAMS (Answering Machine).

Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE (if any) and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of

identification, such as a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.35 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

#### BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, every third Saturday MORNING. Exam times are 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the old Serman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$6.35, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, W19M at (414) 355-0237.

#### MADISON, WI

VE exams are held in Madison every second Saturday morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held at the operations building of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd. To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter at gate.

You should bring a picture ID, your original licence and a copy of your licence. For exams beyond the novice tests, bring a check for \$6.35, made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at (608) 832-6631.

Mark Jenks, N29B

#### RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Racine - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted.

Talk in on 147.877.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (414) 886-8551.

#### TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month, Jan. thru Oct.

Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

#### APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC

MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST)

KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All test sessions in Appleton are held at James Madison Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (920) 759-1167.

#### OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walk-ins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.35. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail [lemme@vbe.com](mailto:lemme@vbe.com), or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

#### EAU CLAIRE

The Eau Claire ARC will hold exam sessions on the second Saturday in the months of January, April, and October, as well as on the date of their annual hamfest during the summer. For further information contact: Carl F. Searing, W9NW, 1129 Mc Kinley Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703-2219. (715) 834-1303.

#### REDGRANITE, WI (W5YI VEC)

The Radio Amateurs of Wisconsin (RAW) will be holding test sessions at the Civic Center in Redgranite, 202 Pine River Road, one block from Highway 21. Turn north by Mosier's Sporting Goods store. Registration at 9:00 a.m. Bring two forms of identification, \$6.35 per test, two copies of all original documents, CSCE's, Licenses, etc. along with original documents. For further information, contact: Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Mike O'Connor, K9II (920) 231-7093.

#### SHEBOYGAN, WI

Wednesday dates: Registration 1830 hrs, testing 1900 hrs.

Saturday dates: Registration 0830 hrs, testing 0900 hrs.

Testing site is: Red Cross/Boy Scout Office Building (lower level), 2032 Erie Ave., Sheboygan, WI.

Test site has limited handicap accessibility. Walk-ins are OK but preregistration would be appreciated. Test fee is \$6.35. Make checks payable to SCARC VE Testing. All class tests administered. Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, (920) 876-2370. e-mail <[k9xj@excel.net](mailto:k9xj@excel.net)>

#### ONALASKA, WI (ARRL/VEC)

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club will hold test sessions at the Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Avenue South. registration

begins at 9:00 a.m. with testing at 9:15 a.m. Please bring two forms of identification and two copies of all original documents, CSCEs, license, etc. For more information contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 526 13th Ave. N., Onalaska, WI 54650. (608) 783-0732.

#### MEDFORD, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Taylor County Area AREC. Registration starts 8:30 a.m., testing starts 9:00 a.m. Location: The conference room in the lower level of the Sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Take Ogden St. west off of Hwy. 13 to the courthouse. Park in the lots on the east or south sides of the courthouse or on the street. PLEASE use the entrance on the south side of the courthouse and watch of the signs. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451. (715) 748-4054

#### CEDARBURG, WI - ORC HAMFEST

EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARC HAMFEST

GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST

HAYWARD, WI - HAYWARD HAMFEST

KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST

MANITOWOC, WI - LAKESHORE HAMFEST

OAK CREEK, WI - SMARC HAMFEST

RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST

RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST

ROCKFORD, IL - RARC HAMFEST

ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST

SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - SMARC HAMFEST

STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST

WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST

WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST

DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST

See the Swapfest column for additional information and contact persons.

#### DUBUQUE, IA - ARRL/VEC

Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, NOKAX, 2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

#### LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Dennis G. Eksten, W9SS, (815) 877-6768.

#### MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

From "The Ground Wave", Saint Paul Radio Club.

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)

Contact: Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108

Test Site: St. Paul Technical College

235 Marshall Ave.

St Paul, MN

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Contact: Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ (612) 483-3143

Test Site: Blaine City Hall

9150 Central Ave NE

Blaine, MN

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Bloomington Office of Emergency Management

(Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC))

Contact: Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756 Test Site: Fire Station No. 1

94th St. & Nicollet Avenue S.

Bloomington, MN

TESTING: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)

Contact: Bill Martin, A10D (612) 432-0438

Test Site: Hayes Community Center

14601 Hayes Road

Apple Valley, MN

TESTING: Second Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

W5YI Group

Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 542-2553

Test Site: Eden Prairie Library

479 Eden Prairie Drive

Eden Prairie, MN

TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)

Contact: Dave Harrell, K0BTE (612) 459-8678

Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station

8641 80th ST., S

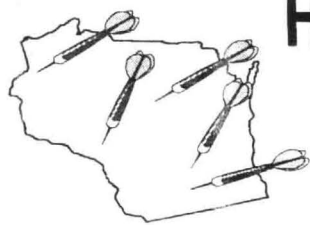
Cottage Grove, MN

TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

The times and places listed above are the usual time and place for each VE team. Occasionally, sessions are canceled or changed. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm the test time and place

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.





## HERE and THERE

### Near Space Sciences announces next BCAR launch

On July 18th at approximately 8 a.m. launch time of (rain date 19th), Near Space Sciences is happy to announce its next flight to "The edge of space!" This will be our most ambitious flight yet; not so much as to the payload itself but the ways we will be making this flight available to all interested. But first a little about the payload itself.

This will be a multi function flight, live video, a crossband repeater, and a fully functioning G.P.S. system running in the full APRS format.

#### Details of the system

There will be 2 sources of signals from the payload.

On UHF will be the main video downlink, 439.25 MHz, horizontally polarized. We will be using a Wyman Research transmitter on this flight, so we will also be using the ON CARRIER FEATURE for the downlink of both the crossband repeater and the GPS data.

So also on 439.25 MHz. NBFM (standard deviation 5 KHz) will be the GPS downlink as well as the audio from the crossband repeater.

The up-link to the payload will be 144.325 MHz. We will be using this frequency for the crossband repeater.

And, the chase teams will be able to using their APRS beacons relay to us their position also on the map.

We also hope to have the GPS data also come down on 2 meters on the frequency of 144.925 MHz. This isn't a sure thing yet.

We will be issuing notices via Dave, N9LTD, on the MARA Net, 147.15 MHz Wednesday evenings, and hopefully during the Baraboo swapnet, 146.88 MHz on Sunday mornings.

We will also have a web page setup with links for pre flight information, of what programs to get (if needed). And during the day of the flight we will have a "Chat Room" up and running (no chat room programs needed) And we will be using a snappy to actually send pictures from the payload out over the INTERNET. This should be a truly exciting flight.

The web page address is:

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Launchpad/9644/index.html>

Between there and the announcements on the local repeaters will be the best way to keep up on the latest developments.

Hope to hear you on via the balloon.

Joe Mayenschein, WB9SBD

Near Space Sciences

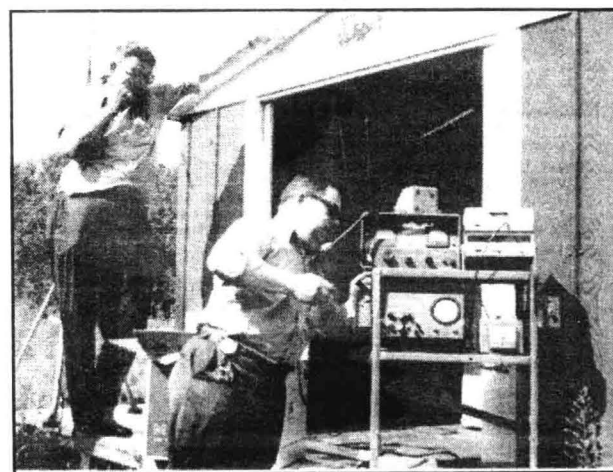
### Updated e-mail addresses to be published in August issue

As most readers already know, BSSS publishes an e-mail address list about every three months. The next list will be in the next issue.

If you wish to be included or if you have changes or corrections, please send an e-mail message to Dave Knaus, WA9POV. His e-mail: WA9POV@execpc.com

Thank you, and thanks to Dave.

## Ken and Ken go to MARS



Ken Ebner, K9EN, at left, watches as Ken Slate, W9ITW, prepares his equipment to analyze the first Navy-Marine Corps repeater in Wisconsin. This repeater was one of four, and they all were linked. One could stand in the Mississippi mud at La Crosse and talk to stations in Milwaukee. The system was used for both voice and slow-speed data - Teletype.

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ  
(Known for a time as N0ZSB)

### Hams eat smoke in Florida

Florida ARES and RACES teams--usually prepared to focus on the annual hurricane season that began June 1--have found themselves dealing instead with tornadoes, floods, sink holes, drought, and, most recently, devastating wild fires in several parts of the Sunshine State.

On June 6, several wildfires spawned by a 100-day drought broke out almost simultaneously in Florida's Flagler, Seminole, Brevard, and Lake counties. The Flagler fire consumed nearly 1700 acres, destroyed 19 homes, and damaged others. As a result, part of I-95 was shut down and the Red Cross set up a shelter with Amateur Radio Support. The Lake and Brevard fire consumed a large area but only minimal damage to homes.

Seminole County Emergency Management declared a state of emergency the evening of June 6. Seminole County EC Dick Fess, K4FUY, activated an ARES-RACES net, and the Red Cross opened a shelter close to the fire zone. Bob Wendoth, KS4CI, and Seminole County ARRL PIO Norm Lauterette, WA4HYJ, set up at the shelter in contact with the county EOC. "Our ARES/RACES direct communication link to the EOC was very valuable," Lauterette said.

Nearly 300 residents were evacuated from the 1800-acre Geneva fire zone, and nearly 60 took refuge in the shelter. "Shifting winds caused the tree-top-high fire to leapfrog in several directions, forcing residents to flee with just the clothes on their backs," said Lauterette. "Families were split up, some missing, others known to have stayed behind."

In addition to tracking the flames, ham radio operators helped to check up on the whereabouts of individuals, handle medical needs, and report the condition of homes, pets and property. Rescue dog handler Allen Wilson, WB7BCI, also stood by at the shelter with his partner, Duke, if needed. All told, 17 hams volunteered their services in Seminole County. Most evacuees were allowed to return to their homes later the next day. In all, Lauterette and Mike Welch, KF4HFC, report, 54 homes and structures were destroyed in the four Central Florida fires.

Ironically, South Florida conducted its Simulated Emergency Test (SET) the same weekend. Lauterette says the fire duty provided solid exercise for the other emergencies that he's sure lie ahead.

Ten days later, on June 16, Alachua County ARES/RACES responded to a call for communication assistance from the county's emergency management office after brush fires broke out in an approximately 16-square mile area. As of week's end, the fires burned more than 11 square miles and ultimately forced evacuation of the entire town of Waldo, some 1100 people in all. Hams assisted at shelters, in the EOC, and on the scene. At one point, Red Cross had to move a shelter and hams helped coordinate supplies and count heads. In all, at least a dozen hams have participated in the fire emergency.

Jeff Capehart, KE4NIV, an ARES and SKYWARN member as well as a volunteer firefighter, said severe thunderstorms passed through the area in the midst of the fire and evacuation. "Two severe thunderstorm warnings were issued for Alachua County," he said. "Since hams were already at the EOC, a SKYWARN net was activated on top of the ARES net." Capehart says the rain brought some relief and helped to control the fires.

--thanks to Norm Lauterette, WA4HYJ; Mike Welch, KF4HFC; Carla Sikorsky, KF4FRE; and Jeff Capehart, KE4NIV

## MFJ handheld HEADQUARTERS ... the world's largest assortment of HT accessories!

### MFJ Super HT Antennas

### MFJ First-rate Speaker Mics

MFJ's new SuperFlex™-ThinDuck handheld dual band antennas don't get in the way! They're super flexible, super thin and super lightweight! You can't break them -- they'll take a beating and bounce back in shape!

MFJ-1715, \$24.95. High gain 12 1/2 inch dual bander gives you super halfwave gain on 440 MHz. Efficient quarter wave radiator on 2-Meters. Super performer!

MFJ-1713, \$19.95. Just 5 1/2 inches short. This super performing midget dual bander is a full quarter wave on 440 MHz. Efficient loaded quarter wave on 2-Meters.

**More high performance HT Antennas**

MFJ-1710, \$9.95 Pocket 3/8 wave telescopic 2 Meters.

MFJ-1712, \$14.95 Dual band telescopic, 2M/440 MHz.

MFJ-1714, \$16.95 Long Ranger™, telescopic 2M, ended 1/2 wave, 40" extended, 10 1/2" collapsed. Super range!

MFJ-1716, \$16.95 Dual band 144/440 MHz Flexible Duck HT antenna. 7 1/2 in. long. 1/4 wave on 2M/440 MHz.

MFJ-1717, \$19.95 MFJ's best seller! High Gain dual band 144/440 MHz Flexible Duck. 15 3/4 inches gives you super halfwave gain on 440 MHz. It's an efficient 1/4 wave on 2-Meters. Super performer! Super rugged!

MFJ-1718, \$12.95 Super strong 2M 4 1/4" shorty duck.

MFJ-1713/1715  
Super ThinDucks

MFJ-1717/1716/  
1718 Flex Ducks

### MFJ MaxStrength™ Hi-Flux Magnet Mounts

Get maximum pull strength with these MFJ super strong magnet mounts. Stays put -- won't fly off your car at high speed. Euro-style has black poly finish with heavy duty scratch-resistance rubber guard. 17 feet of tough RG-58 coax with PL-259 connector. Select MNO or SO-239 mount. Low profile 3.5 inch base, 1 1/2 pounds:

MFJ-333BM (MNO)/MFJ-333BS (SO-239), \$14.95 each. Super Powerful 5 inch base, 2 1/2 pounds: MFJ-335BM (MNO)/MFJ-335BS (SO-239), \$19.95 each.

MFJ-333BM/BS  
\$14.95  
Add s&h  
3.5 inch

### MFJ Mobile Antennas for 2 Meters and 440 MHz

MFJ-1724B, \$14.95. World's best selling dual band 2 Meter/440 MHz magnet mount mobile antenna! Short 19 inch stainless steel radiator lets you park in your garage. Powerful 3 1/2 inch magnet, 15 foot coax with PL-259 connector. Scratch-resistance pad. Free BNC handheld adapter. Low SWR. Handles 300 Watts PEP.

MFJ-1729, \$29.95. Super\*Gain™ dual band 2 Meter /440 MHz magnet mount mobile antenna is ham radio's most powerful. Outstanding gain on 440 MHz/2 Meters. MFJ's 27 1/2 inch stainless steel SlimLine Radiator™ cuts wind vibration for less SWR flutter -- gives longer range, better readability. 12 feet coax with PL-259. Low SWR lets your rig deliver full power safely. Handles 300 Watts PEP. Free BNC handheld adapter.

MFJ-1728B, \$24.95. 5/8 Wave 2 1/6 Meter Magnet Mount antenna. On 2 Meters, it gives you the maximum



MFJ-288 K/I  
Deluxe Headset with  
Boom Mic



MFJ-295Y  
Yaesu Mini Mic

### Jaws Gripmatic™ HT Holder for your car

Adjustable foam padded jaws lock your expensive HT in place and secures it for the bumpiest rides. Protects any HT or cell phone from damage. Quick release button lets you quickly take your HT with you. Adjustable FlexNeck™ lets you position your HT conveniently. Incredibly powerful suction cups firmly mount the Jaws Gripmatic™ HT holder to your car window. Suction release tabs quickly release from window.

MFJ-315  
\$14.95  
Add s&h

possible theoretical gain of any single element antenna -- no matter how much others cost. On 6 Meters, it's a high performance full 1/4 wave antenna. Free BNC handheld adapter, low SWR, handles 300 Watts PEP, heavy duty magnet mount, 12 feet coax, 48 inch stainless steel radiator.

MFJ-1721, \$14.95. 2 Meter UltraLite™ weighs 2 ounces and has tiny but powerful 1 1/8 inch diameter mobile magnet mount. Thin 20 inch stainless steel whip bends to fit smallest briefcase. 9 feet of thin RG-174RU mini coax with BNC.

MFJ-1722, \$18.95. 144/440 MHz dual band UltraLite™.

MFJ-1734, \$39.95. Glass Mount dual band antenna is easy-to-install on glass windows. 26 inch stainless steel removable radiator adjusts for angled surfaces. Handles 50 Watts. Low SWR. Has 12 feet coax, cleaning pad, mounting hardware, SWR tuning tool. Free BNC handheld adapter.

MFJ-1738, \$29.95. Long range 2 Meter Glass Mount.

MFJ-1734 Dual  
Band Glass Mount

### MFJ 144/440 MHz Duplexer

MFJ-916 lets you use a dual band antenna with separate transceivers or separate antennas with a dual band transceiver. One SO-239, two PL-259 connectors. 50 Ohms. Handles 200 Watts PEP combined.

MFJ-916  
\$29.95  
Add s&h

### MFJ HT Window Mount Clip™

Window clip mounts your HT duck antenna outside on top edge of your rolled-up car side window. Your duck radiates effectively and is firmly held in place. Works with all HTs with BNC. 10 feet flexible mini coax.

MFJ-310  
\$14.95  
Add s&h

### 24/12 Hr. Temperature Clock

Single glance gives accurate in/outdoor temperatures (F or C) and 24/12 hour time on huge 1 1/2 x 2 1/2 inch backlit LCD. Great for QSOs! Perfect for mobilizing! Gives Min/Max temperatures. Batteries included.

MFJ-152  
\$24.95  
Add s&h

### Universal Quick/Trickle Battery Chargers for Ni-Cd/Ni-MH

MFJ RapidBattery™ Charger charges Ni-Cd and Ni-MH batteries for HTs. Automatically switches from quick charge to trickle charge. Microprocessor prevents overcharging and prolongs battery life. Small 3 1/2 x 5 1/2 x 3 in.

MFJ's universal interchangeable charging slots make charging different HT batteries fast, simple and safe. MFJ eliminates installing complex battery clips and possible wrong voltage settings that could destroy your expensive battery!

MFJ-641 RapidBattery™ Charger includes one charging slot. Extra charging slots available for other HTs, \$12.95 each. Have HT make and battery type ready when ordering.

### Free MFJ Catalog

Nearest dealer/Orders ... 800-647-1800

<http://www.mfjenterprises.com> FAX: (601) 323-6551  
• 1 year No Matter What™ limited warranty • 30 day money back (less s&h) on orders from MFJ • Add s&h

**MFJ ENTERPRISES, INC.**  
P.O. Box 494, Miss. State, MS 39762  
(601) 323-5869; 8-4:30 CST, Mon-Fri  
Technical Help: (601) 323-0549  
Prices and specifications subject to change. © 1998 MFJ Enterprises, Inc.

Protected by MFJ's famous 1 year No Matter What™ warranty



## Special event stations

**Special event station W9DK (ManCoRad radio club) in Manitowoc, WI, will be operating from the WWII submarine "USS Cobia" to commemorate the 54th anniversary of its first war patrol in the Pacific. Date and time: August 15th (Saturday) from 1400-2000Z (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) on 7250 and 14,250 kHz SSB.**

For certificate: send QSL and #10 SASE to: Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, 4932 So. 10th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220-9121.

Guest operators are more than welcome to come aboard and participate if in the area. The sub is located at the maritime museum in downtown Manitowoc.

Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF

**EAA Convention and Flyin:** The Fox cities ARC (Appleton WI) will operate special event station W9ZL from the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) flyin and convention (EAA AirVenture '98) at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.

SSB HF operation will begin on Friday, July 31, and run through Sunday, August 2 in the General portions of the phone bands. RTTY operation will be mostly on 7085 and 14.085. Operators of the club will man the station from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

A special 8 x 10 certificate is offered for contacts with proper QSLs.

QSL to Wayne Pennings, WD9FLJ, 913 North Mason, Appleton, WI 54914.

Wayne Pennings, WD9FLJ

## New vanity fee set

The vanity call sign application fee will drop to \$13 effective September 14, 1998. That's the word from the FCC's Terry Johnson in the Office of Managing Director. The new fee will be for the ten-year term, payable at the time of application for a new, renewed, or reinstated license. The current vanity call sign application fee is \$50. Earlier this year, the FCC had proposed dropping the fee to \$12.90. The actual fee was "rounded up," Johnson said.

The FCC says it has no plans to refund the difference between the current fee and the new fee for applicants who submit applications before the new fee schedule goes into effect in September.

The FCC released its revised schedule of regulatory fees for all services for fiscal year 1998 this week, and it's soon expected to be available on the FCC's Web site. The Commission is required to collect almost \$163 million during FY 1998.

The FCC calculated the new fee based on an expected 10,000 applicants during FY 1998.

*The ARRL Letter*

## FCC asks Germany to silence broadcaster on 3945 kHz

Sometimes it helps to complain. The FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding Group has asked German authorities for their help in eliminating a broadcast station in Germany that's operating on 3945 kHz.

Members of the ARRL Monitoring System (MON-SYS) and other US hams had complained to the FCC and to the ARRL about the station's presence. Those complaints were forwarded to the FCC. The frequency is not allocated for broadcasting in Europe, which is in ITU Region 1. In Region 1, the 3900 to 3950 kHz band is authorized for aeronautical mobile operation. In the US, in Region 2, the band is allocated to amateur, fixed and mobile.

"Since this station is a source of daily harmful interference to the Amateur Service, we would appreciate any assistance you could provide in eliminating the interference," said Chief Watch Officer/HFDF Group David Larrabee, K1BZ, in a fax June 11 to the Bundesamt fuer Post und Telekommunikation (BAPT), Germany's equivalent of our FCC.

The station on 3945 kHz, identified as The Overcomer Ministry, has been monitored at several East Coast locations as well as by the FCC in Columbia, Maryland. It broadcasts on AM from Juelich, Germany.

*The ARRL Letter, 6/19/98*

Have you considered becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner? If you are 18 or

**ARRL VEC**

older, and are presently a General, Advanced, or Extra class licensee, the ARRL/VEC would be glad to hear from you. Feel free to contact the ARRL/VEC at (800) 927-7583 and request our Prospective VE Packet. Very 73 to all my friends in Wisconsin!

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ/1 • ARRL/VEC Manager

## Sheboygan County ARC remembers members

On the plaque at right are the names and calls of the SCARC members who have passed away. They may be silent, but they are remembered.

A homily for deceased amateurs was also sent. It, sorry to say, is too long to fit in any issue. The guidelines it provides are important ones.

So, for your copy, contact Art Pahr, K9XJ. Please send him an SASE.



## FCC to tighten scanner rules

The FCC plans to further tighten its rules on scanning receivers to prevent reception on cellular telephone frequencies. In a rulemaking notice released June 3, ET Docket 98-76, the FCC proposed to require receiver filtering adequate to prevent cell phone reception even when the receiver is tuned to frequencies outside the cellular telephone bands, such as an image frequency. To prevent modification of legal receivers to receive cellular frequencies, the FCC wants scanning receivers designed so that the tuning and control circuitry is "completely inaccessible," and that attempts to modify the receiver "will likely render the equipment inoperable." The proposed rules also would prohibit scanner kits.

The FCC said the proposals were in response to a petition (RM-9022) from Uniden American Corporation, which manufactures both cellular telephones and scanners.

The proposed rules would affect Amateur Radio equipment that includes scanning capability, as defined in the FCC rules. The FCC has invited comments on whether it should modify its definition of a scanning receiver to include units that can be manually tuned or which automatically switch among fewer than four frequencies.

The FCC wants to require that scanners provide at least 38 dB of rejection for cell band signals at any frequency the receiver can tune. The FCC also proposes

that scanners be unable to receive a signal level of 5 mV/meter or less in the cell band at any tunable frequency.

The FCC suggested covering control and tuning circuits with epoxy or some other substance, or encasing them in a non-removable metal compartment, to make them impossible to access and modify. The Commission also plans to ban the import or manufacture of scanning receiver and converter kits capable of receiving cellular frequencies. Test equipment would be exempted from the definition of a scanning receiver, however.

The FCC also proposed modifying the rules to make it clear that modification of scanning receivers on a substantial scale to receive cellular frequencies would be the same as manufacturing, which already is illegal. The FCC took the opportunity to point out that it's still illegal to modify receivers imported or manufactured prior to the effective date of the current scanning receiver rules. Those rules became effective April 26, 1994.

The FCC has opened a 30-day comment window. The complete petition is available at the FCC Web site at:

[http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering\\_Technology/](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Notices/1998/oet/dockets/et98-76/)

Notices/1998/oet/dockets/et98-76/.

*The ARRL Letter, 6/5/98*

## BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS

### Subscription Form Regular Individual Subscription Rates

1 Year: \$13.95 • 2 Years: \$25.95 (save \$1.95) • 3 Years: \$37.95 (save \$3.90)

### PLEASE PRINT!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ 3 Years ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Send this form, with your check or money order, to Ken Ebner, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901.

Please do NOT send cash!

JULY 1998



# The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive  
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654  
(414) 284-9346  
WB9RQR @ N9PBY.EN63BI.WI.USA.NA  
SKAPLAN @ MCW.EDU



## No. 56: A Tweak for Windows 95

I found the answer! Remember back in Number 42, MORE WINDOWS FRUSTRATIONS, when I complained about the sluggish operation of Harvard Graphics when used with Windows 95? The sluggishness seemed to be associated with my hard drive thrashing around whenever I performed a simple operation such as adding a line, or even erasing one. Well, the answer is here, in the form of a "tweak" that you can apply to your machine, as well. Credit must go to one of my favorite web sites: <http://www.creativelement.com/win95ann/>, the home site of Windows 95 Annoyances. This site is jam packed with general complaints about Windows 95, along with wonderful work-arounds, fixes and tweaks. Indeed, much of what can be found at the site has been published in a book by David A. Karp, **Windows Annoyances**, O'Reilly & Associates, 101 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472 (707) 829-0515. The book, which I purchased, is \$29.95 plus about \$4 for shipping. Highly recommended.

It turns out that the default settings for Windows 95 are poor with regard to caching the hard drive and managing virtual memory. By the way, virtual memory is a misnomer for a process in which Windows uses your hard drive to store information while it is working. Here is what happens.

Windows loads software drivers and programs into memory until your memory is chock full. At that point, it starts to use your hard drive, loading programs or whatever is necessary into a "swap" file on the drive. As you work, it messes around constantly, moving stuff into the swap file and freeing up real memory for what it considers the most important tasks. It also resizes the swap file constantly, depending upon what it decides it needs at the moment. This constant swapping and resizing can slow down your machine considerably as Windows repeatedly adjusts the swap file. Just a little tweaking can improve this considerably, but you have to tell Windows to let you decide what to do. Here is how. As always, click or select means click with the left mouse button unless otherwise noted.

1. Click the START button; select SETTINGS, CONTROL PANEL, and then SYSTEM.

Select the PERFORMANCE tab and click on VIRTUAL MEMORY.  
Select the LET ME SPECIFY MY OWN VIRTUAL MEMORY SETTINGS.  
The location and size of your swap file are now displayed. You now need to change the size to a fixed value, to prevent Windows from constantly adjusting the size.

Use the same number for both the Minimum and Maximum size. This number should be 2½ times the amount of RAM you have installed in your machine.

Thus, for a machine with 16 MB of RAM, use the number 40 in both spots. If you have 32 MB of RAM, use 80, and so on.

Click OK. Windows will now present you with an ominous warning message, asking if you really want to do this, and predicting dire consequences. Ignore Windows; it is only a computer program. You are human and in charge. Click yes.

Windows will comply and ask to restart the computer. Let it do so, so that it can invoke your new settings. The constant disk access will be gone, and you should see an improvement in performance.

Next, you want to prevent Windows from filling up all the available RAM, then spilling any applications you wish to use to the hard drive. To do this, you need to edit SYSTEM.INI, a file located in your WINDOWS subdirectory. Use NOTEPAD for this job, not a word processor! Here is how:

Right click the START button and select EXPLORE. Select the Windows subdirectory and scroll down in the Contents panel until you find NOTEPAD.EXE.

1. Double click NOTEPAD.EXE to start the program. Click on FILE, then OPEN. Make sure the ALL FILES (\*.\*) option bar is selected, not TEXT DOCUMENTS (\*.txt). Then scroll through the many files in the Windows subdirectory until you find SYSTEM.INI.

Select SYSTEM.INI. Once Notepad has opened it, scroll down until you find the heading labeled [vcache]. You should find this section with no entries. If you cannot find it at all, add it just as shown, including the brackets: [vcache]

6. Assuming you have 16MB of RAM in your machine, add the following two lines below the [vcache] heading:

```
MinFileCache=4096  
MaxFileCache=4096
```

If you have more than 16 MB of RAM installed, make both numbers equal to 25% of the amount of RAM. Thus, for 32MB, both numbers should be 8192. For 64MB, 16384, and so on.

8. Click FILE, then SAVE. Exit NOTEPAD. You are all done.

Work with these changes for several days. Chances are that you will find performance considerably improved by these steps. Should any problems arise or if your system performance degrades, you can easily remove these two lines with NOTEPAD and tell Windows to go back to managing your virtual memory, by just following the thread outlined in this article. I bet that won't happen, though, and that you will see significant improvement. Try it. Remember, you are human and in charge.

By the way, this might be a good time to construct a shortcut on your desktop to NOTEPAD.EXE, so that it will be there when you need it. You say you don't know how to do that? Find NOTEPAD.EXE as outlined above, and left click on its icon, but hold the button down. Then drag the pointer to any blank spot on your desktop and let go of the button. Close the Explorer. You now have a shortcut to NOTEPAD on your desktop that will launch the program whenever you double click it. Happy computing!

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, Ozaukee Radio Club, 101 E. Clay Street, Saukville, Wisconsin 53080-1903 (Skip Douglas, KA9DDN, Editor). □

## The rocket's red glare

Continued from front page

No one was more surprised that both of this year's payloads worked than their principal builder, Bryan Suits, WB8WKN. During his payload presentation to the High School students, Suits prepared them for the worst telling them "more of these (Rockets for Schools) payloads have failed than have worked, and my confidence in them was badly shaken after the failures last year despite our initial success (in 1996), and by failures of other similar payloads." In a similar Super Loki launch in Delaware a week prior to this event, the Delaware payload did not survive ejection, and in a launch just few days prior in Florida, it was reported that only 12 seconds of data were received from their payload.

For this event, the first Super Loki payload included a simple, home-made, 80 MW 2m narrowband FM transmitter which sent back telemetry using Morse code. Signals could be heard for much of the descent using an HT with a rubber duck antenna. Telemetry included payload battery voltage, payload temperature and pressure readings. The pressure sensor and associated

electronics for this payload were built and provided by students of Kingsford High School, Kingsford, MI.

The second Super Loki payload included ATV on 434 MHz as well as Morse code telemetry on the ATV audio. Pictures were received and recorded at the launch site by members of the Sheboygan Astronomical Society using a home-made dish antenna. This payload was similar to one launched last year, but with a color rather than a black and white camera.

Signals from both Super Loki payloads were received for approximately 10 minutes after their launch at which point the data received showed that the payloads had reach ground level. Hence, the high-altitude parachutes ("starutes"), which should have slowed the descent to take over an hour, had not properly deployed in both cases. The Super Loki rockets were supplied as surplus to the Aerospace States Association (ASA) for use in this event, and similar projects in other areas of the country, and were launched by members of the Florida Spaceport Authority, the same people who launched the lunar pathfinder mission for NASA this last January. The starutes were supplied with the rockets and were over ten years passed their expiration date. Needless to say, the telemetry and pictures obtained using Amateur Radio this year have convinced the organizers that the outdated starutes should be replaced in the future.

More detailed information about this program and the Super Loki payloads can be found on the Web pages at <http://www.phy.mtu.edu/rocket>. □

## Amateur Radio proclamations

The week of June 21-28, culminating in Field Day, is Amateur Radio Week. Alabama, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Texas are among the states that have issued official proclamations honoring the hobby. Former ham and New York Gov George Pataki, ex-K2ZCZ, New Jersey Gov Christine Todd Whitman, and North Carolina Gov James B. Hunt Jr went the extra mile to proclaimed the entire month of June as Amateur Radio Month. Efforts are under way to get Pataki and Whitman to participate in a variety of presentation ceremonies and Field Day activities. Alabama Gov Fob James Jr proclaimed June

22-29 as Amateur Radio Week. Lawrence Thompson, KE4RPX, says last year, Gov James also supported the Alabama QSO Party by personally signing the contest certificates. A similar proclamation was issued by Mayor Emory Folmar in Montgomery, Alabama. In Texas, Gov George W. Bush proclaimed June 6, as Amateur Radio Day, coinciding with the start of the West Gulf Division Convention in Arlington, Texas. Most of the proclamations cite Amateur Radio's contributions during emergencies and specifically mention Field Day, June 27-28.

## NEW PRODUCTS

### MFJ Amplified Communications Speaker

MFJ's deluxe Clear Tone™ communication speaker is an excellent 1-watt amplified speaker for QRPers, base station HT users or for mobile operation with transceivers requiring more volume.

Superb loud, powerful ClearTone™ comes from a 3-inch speaker. It's volume adjustable from barely audible to high volume (it'll blow you out of the room).

Rugged all metal cabinet is sturdy and compact with rubber feet and vinyl cladded cover.

Has on/off button, uses 9-volt battery (not included) or 110 VAC with optional MFJ-1312B, \$12.95. A free mono-to-mono cable is included for connection to your receiver, transceiver, or other electronic device. Order today (\$39.95) and enjoy loud, crystal-clear audio!

MFJ's ClearTone™ Amplified Communications speaker comes with MFJ's famous "no matter what™" one year limited warranty. That means MFJ will repair or replace (at our option) your speaker for one complete year.

To order or for your nearest dealer, call 800-647-1800; FAX (601) 323-6551; email [mfj@enterprises.com](mailto:mfj@enterprises.com); or check out dealer information on our fantastic Web site: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com>



Computer user? Computer Corner reader? A compendium of Stan's columns is available for just ten bucks. Well worth the price! Any "profit" goes to the ARES. Order from Stan's address in the column heading in BSSS.



# Land mobile wants 70cm

Continued from front page

operation at 70 cm and other bands "as an important adjunct to the National Communications System and the National Weather Service, and with general recognition of the valuable public service performed" by hams. Amateur operations "share well" with military radio-location radars because hams can tolerate the restrictions involved. But, the NTIA's bottom line was that "critical Federal operations in the 420-450 MHz band" make it inappropriate to consider reallocation. The NTIA also noted that Wind Profiler Radar operations at 448 to 450 MHz--which the LMCC had suggested be "discouraged"--are operational, not experimental. The NTIA said it "consulted extensively" with the amateur community to coordinate WPR operation and said plans for an extensive WPR network at 449 MHz were proceeding.

Annexed to the NTIA comments were individual comments from members of the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee. These include federal agencies ranging from USDA, the National Weather Service, and the Department of Defense to NASA. All opposed reallocation from the federal government. Some, such as the NWS, specifically cited the value of Amateur Radio public service and the network of 150,000 weather spotters on call for emergencies.

On a more practical level, the Department of Defense said that interference from its radars and communication activities--including "very high power critical safety-of-life command destruct, flight termination and drone control"--would preclude sharing with PMRS.

Several commenters were altogether silent on amateur issues. A few challenged the FCC to address the larger issue of private wireless spectrum allocation policy or urged the FCC to issue a Notice of Inquiry to initiate a dialogue on spectrum needs. The Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA) encouraged the Commission to respond "with a publication of its own views on the character and needs of the private wireless community." The ITA said the petition "makes a compelling case" for additional PMRS spectrum. Other commenters said they felt the needs of the private radio community had been subsumed by demand for consumer wireless services. Some debunked the notion that commercial services could satisfy private wireless needs.

Some organizations indicated full and wholehearted support for the LMCC petition. These included the UTC, The Telecommunications Association, an LMCC member that, itself, represents other commercial spectrum users. Motorola declared that private wireless users "are in dire need" of new spectrum. The American Petroleum Institute urged the FCC to "move forward as soon as possible" on the LMCC petition. A copy of the League's comments is available at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/RM-9267/arrl-cmt.html>.

Selected comments on RM-9267 also have been posted to the ARRL Web site.

*The ARRL Letter*, 6/12/98

## More on LMCC petition:

### Hams flood FCC with LMCC letters; AAA changes tune

The June 8 issue of *Wireless Week* reports that hams "flooded the FCC with letters" opposing RM-9267, "often in vehement terms." The article, "Hams Oppose Spectrum Sharing," by Caron Carlson, says that hams "warned the FCC that any further loss of their spectrum would be debilitating to the services they provide to the public free of charge," including help in natural disasters and emergencies. Carlson quoted as a typical comment one from John Kovac, K0VAC, a medical doctor from Hermosa Beach, California who's involved in disaster communication. "The reallocation of these frequencies would be a disaster in its own right," Kovac told the FCC.

In a related matter, the Automobile Club of America says it got incorrect information from the LMCC about how amateur frequencies came to be identified as targets for reallocation. Triple-A had told some correspondents that the Spectrum Planning and Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) worked with the NTIA to identify 70 cm for reallocation (see "More LMCC developments: support from APCO; AAA admonished," *The ARRL Letter*, Vol 17, No 23). "We now know that was incorrect and that it was the LMCC that initiated the plan without support from either SPAC or NTIA," the AAA's Gary Ruark said in response to a letter from ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. Ruark said AAA's future correspondence would "reflect the correct information."

Ruark also said AAA would contact the LMCC secretary and other Council members to discuss the status of the petition. "We are aware that the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) has withdrawn its support and that may have a bearing on how the remaining LMCC members perceive the value of the petition," Ruark wrote.

*The ARRL Letter*, 6/12/98

# CIRCUS CITY SWAPFEST

Sponsored by  
The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Radio, Computer & Electronics Extravaganza!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1998**  
**7:00 A.M. UNTIL NOON**

**Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo, Wisconsin**

**Vendors \* Tail Gate Area**  
**Concessions \* Free Parking \* Camping**

\$5 Admission, \$4 In Advance

8 Foot Tables \$5 Each

(1 Admission Included Per Table - ADVANCE SALES ONLY)

Set-up 6:00 a.m.

**VE Testing**  
9:00am Code - 10:00am Written  
**Talk-In**  
146.880 Repeater  
146.520 Simplex  
WB9FDZ

The Sauk County Fairgrounds is located on highway 33, on Baraboo's far east side. From I-90/94: Take exit 106 (Hwy. 33) west to Baraboo. From Hwy. 12: Take Hwy. 33 east at the Kwik Trip in West Baraboo.

For more information contact: Steve, N9UDO at (608) 356-2313 voice, (608) 356-4777 fax, [steven9udo@baraboo.com](mailto:steven9udo@baraboo.com) e-mail or Bill, N9KXX at (608) 643-6908 days, (608) 643-6453 evenings, or (608) 643-8850 fax.

Visit us on the World-Wide Web: <http://www.thelox.com/~sschulze/hamfest.htm>

For Advance Tickets Send Check With A Self Addressed Stamped Envelope To:  
Yellow Thunder A.R.C., 1120 City View Road, Baraboo, WI 53913-9704

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$4.00= \_\_\_\_\_ Electricity Required? Y / N

No. Of Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00= \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed= \_\_\_\_\_

(one complimentary admission ticket with the purchase of each table - ADVANCED SALES ONLY)



## EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 15th ANNUAL

### HAMFEST & COMPUTER EXPO

Eau Claire County Exposition Center - Eau Claire, WI

- Get Your Tickets and Table Reservations Early -

**Doors Open at 8:00 AM - Saturday July 11, 1998**

Advanced Exhibitor Setup - Friday 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM & Saturday 6:00 AM - Security Provided Friday Night

- \* Computers
- \* New & Used
- \* Ham Gear HF/VHF
- \* Monitors/Printers/Modems
- \* FREE PARKING
- \* Commercial Dealers
- \* Electronic Components
- \* Handicap Accessible
- \* Antennas VHF/UHF

RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWING	
First Prize	KENWOOD TM-261A
Second Prize	ICOM IC-T22A
Third Prize	HP-DeskJet Color Printer
Fourth Prize	MFJ 116 12/24 Hour Clock
Raffle Prize Drawing 1:00 PM on 07/11/98 Need Not Be Present To Win Raffle Prize	

VE EXAMINATIONS	
Saturday July 11 - 9 AM to 12 PM	
To Take The Exam You Must Bring The Following:	
Orig & Copy of Your Current License (If Any)	
Orig & Copy of Your C.S.C.E. (If Any)	
Sufficient Knowledge To Pass The Examination	
Photo ID	
Test Fee: \$ 6.35	

### \* FREE COFFEE \*

Delicious Food - Reasonable Prices

Down load a reservation form from our Web Page  
<http://www.ecarc.org>

TICKETS & TABLES	
Admission - Advance	\$ 5.00
At The Door	\$ 6.00
Raffle Ticket	\$ 1.00
6 for	\$ 5.00
Tables ( 8 ft Tables )	\$ 10.00
Tailgating (Does Not Include Table)	\$ 5.00
- Information or Advance Registration Form -	
Jim Staatz KG9MV	Carol Ceraso N9TUA
715-838-9108	715-723-9205
<a href="mailto:kg9mv@ecol.net">kg9mv@ecol.net</a>	<a href="mailto:ceraz@execpc.com">ceraz@execpc.com</a>
Make Check Payable To: E.C.A.R.C.	
P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867	

### DIRECTIONS

I-94/Hwy 93 Exit (68) at Eau Claire, South on Hwy 93 1/4 mile, then right on Lorch Ave between Ken Vance & Jim Carter Ford to the Exposition Center.

\* Talk-in on the E.C.A.R.C. 146.31/91 Repeater \*





## Showing off the hobby

In the early 1970s, the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio club was asked to provide a demonstration to a Portage Boy Scout troop. YTARC happily answered the call. Here, Don Peterson, KA9JGI, Portage, shows the scouts some projects.

# Swapfest '98

*The South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*

**Saturday, July 11, 1998**  
**6 a.m.**

**American Legion Post  
434 • Oak Creek, WI**

**Tickets: \$5.00**

**Food • Drinks • Camping**

**Free Beer - HAPPY TIME! - Free Soda**

**Talkin frequency:  
146.52**

**Phone:  
414-762-3235**

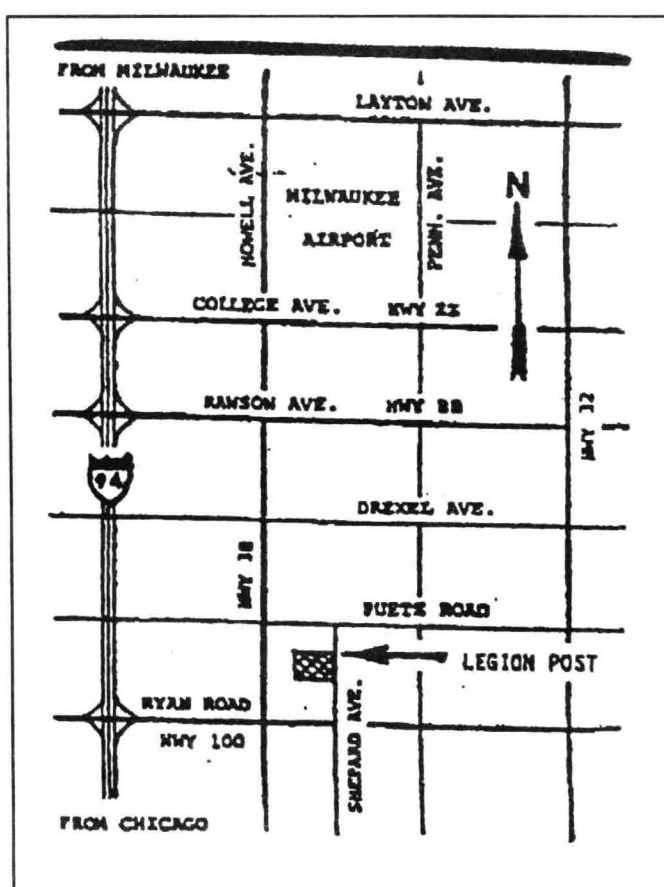
**1st Prize: \$100.00**

**2nd Prize: \$75.00**

**3rd Prize: 50.00**

**4th Prize: 25.00**

**HOURLY PRIZES!**



## Special Olympics 1998

By Joe Larson N9JW • June 15, 1998

The Wisconsin State Special Olympics summer games is history, and we all made it through another year.

The same question came up again this year: Why do they need Amateur Radio? After all, the Wisconsin Special Olympics (WSO) organization owns a couple dozen business band radios for intra-agency communications. They have a handful of cellular phones as well. With all that equipment, what do they need us for?

Well, I was watching this year, taking notes on what was going on, to see if I could find an answer to that question. Here's what I came up with.

**They need us** to travel the event grounds, looking for potential crowd control problems, athlete medical problems, or any other trouble in the making, so we can help head off the trouble. If we can't head off the trouble we can help fix it.

**They need us** to help find lost athletes and lost coaches.

**They need us** to help the event run smoothly, so the WSO people can deal with the athletics without the other issues getting in their way.

**They need us** to provide reliable long range communications, and trained operators to deal with communications during medical emergencies and severe weather events.

**They need us** to help them coordinate and assist them with their business band radios, to help teach them better ways to operate.

**They need us** to accompany the medic teams when they are called out, to handle communications for them so they can concentrate on the medical issues.

**They need us** to coordinate communications between the different physical areas: track, swimming pool, Olympic Village, and the various public address systems. All of these places are scattered widely across the campus, and sometimes the business band radios just can't cut it.

**They need us** to coordinate communications between the different political areas: Security, Medical, Administrative, etc. We can be a group of objective communicators in the center of the action.

If we weren't there, I am sure the summer games would still go on. But it all works much more smoothly with "somebody" in the middle. If that "somebody" is us, then Special Olympics is in good shape. We can handle the communications traffic quickly and efficiently. We have trained ourselves to do that.

So, yes, I came to the conclusion that they still need us: We Amateurs contribute a lot to the smooth running of the Summer Games. I also realized that we Amateurs gain a lot from the Summer Games. The Summer Games are an unparalleled opportunity for self training in emergency communications, in an environment that is as close to a real disaster as you might ever hope to get. I personally believe that this issue is the heart and soul of why there is Amateur Radio. It seems like a beneficial and worthwhile trade to me. □



# Andy Thomas bids Mir farewell

US astronaut Andy Thomas, KD5CHF, said good-bye to Mir June 8 as he left for home aboard the shuttle Discovery after spending 130 days in space. The shuttle was due to return to Earth June 12.

Before he left the aging Russian space outpost, Thomas broadcast a general "thank you" to the worldwide amateur community via the ROMIR packet system. "I am leaving Mir today, and this will be my last message," he said. "Thank you all for your interest in the mission and your messages." Thomas again apologized for not being able to give individual replies. "I wish you all every success. Good-bye and good luck." Thomas is the last US astronaut scheduled to serve a tour of duty aboard Mir.

The day after Discovery docked with Mir, June 5, Thomas engaged a last-minute flurry of random Amateur Radio contacts on 2-meter FM simplex (145.985 MHz). It happened after Thomas tried unsuccessfully to reach W5RRR, the Johnson Space Center club station. Al Lark, KD4SFF, in Greenville, South Carolina, broke in

Thomas told Lark that "a decent hot shower is going to be the first order of business" on Earth. Following his chat with Lark, Thomas also worked WA6LR, AA2DR, and WF1F, among other stations called. "You guys have given me a lot of pleasure during my time up here," Thomas told AA2DR.

Australian Peter Ellis, VK1KEP, also spoke with Thomas on June 5 and found himself thrust into celebrity status as a result. Thomas, a native of Australia who also holds the call sign VK5MIR, told Ellis that he was the first VK1 he'd ever worked. Trying for some local publicity for Amateur Radio, Ellis notified the local media, and soon wound up in the midst of a media frenzy--on local radio twice, the front page of the Canberra Times, on TV in Canberra and Sydney, and on ABC Radio nationwide. See the whole story at

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/5796/vk1kep.htm>

During his Mir stay, Thomas spoke frequently with his family via Amateur Radio, sometimes with Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, serving as the Earth station. Hutchison says he set up phone patches with Thomas' father, Adrian, 74, who lives in Adelaide. Hutchison also provided Adrian Thomas with a computer to track Mir and a receiver so he could listen to his son's conversations. "Adrian flew bombers during the war and is an extremely interesting man to talk to--and a very proud father as well," Hutchison said. "He said that it has been an ambition of Andy's to become an astronaut since he was a young boy." Hutchison, who attended the same college as Thomas but about a dozen years earlier, said they've never met but he hopes to have the opportunity when Thomas returns to his home country for a visit.

Meanwhile, news reports say that Russia's plans to host French and Slovak astronauts aboard Mir have fallen through. This has again raised expectations that Russia will discard Mir a year ahead of schedule unless it can come up with another way of supporting it financially. Russia has been hoping to keep Mir aloft until 1999, when the International Space Station will be in place.

--thanks to Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, and QNews

The ARRL Letter, 6/12/98

## From the editor

This issue may be a bit late getting to our readers, and we apologize.

Half of our production crew (me) has been ill and I'm here to tell ya this is NOT a good time to entertain an upper respiratory bug.

Hope you all will understand.

Many thanks.

Jim, K9ZZ, Editor

## Special Olympics 1998

By Joe Larson N9JW • June 15, 1998

The Wisconsin State Special Olympics summer games is history, and we all made it through another year.

The same question came up again this year: Why do they need Amateur Radio? After all, the Wisconsin Special Olympics (WSO) organization owns a couple dozen business band radios for intra-agency communications. They have a handful of cellular phones as well. With all that equipment, what do they need us for?

Well, I was watching this year, taking notes on what was going on, to see if I could find an answer to that question. Here's what I came up with.

**They need us to travel the event grounds,** looking for potential crowd control problems, athlete medical problems, or any other trouble in the making, so we can help head off the trouble. If we can't head off the trouble we can help fix it.

**They need us to help find lost athletes and lost coaches.**

**They need us to help the event run smoothly,** so the WSO people can deal with the athletics without the other issues getting in their way.

**They need us to provide reliable long range communications,** and trained operators to deal with communications during medical emergencies and severe weather events.

**They need us to help them coordinate and assist them with their business band radios,** to help teach them better ways to operate.

**They need us to accompany the medic teams** when they are called out, to handle communications for them so they can concentrate on the medical issues.

**They need us to coordinate communications** between the different physical areas: track, swimming pool, Olympic Village, and the various public address systems. All of these places are scattered widely across the campus, and sometimes the business band radios just can't cut it.

**They need us to coordinate communications** between the different political areas: Security, Medical, Administrative, etc. We can be a group of objective communicators in the center of the action.

If we weren't there, I am sure the summer games would still go on. But it all works much more smoothly with "somebody" in the middle. If that "somebody" is us, then Special Olympics is in good shape. We can handle the communications traffic quickly and efficiently. We have trained ourselves to do that.

So, yes, I came to the conclusion that they still need us: We Amateurs contribute a lot to the smooth running of the Summer Games. I also realized that we Amateurs gain a lot from the Summer Games. The Summer Games are an unparalleled opportunity for self training in emergency communications, in an environment that is as close to a real disaster as you might ever hope to get. I personally believe that this issue is the heart and soul of why there is Amateur Radio. It seems like a beneficial and worthwhile trade to me. □

## Estate Sale

Two (2) Pyramid 12VDC 25 amp supplies  
Kenwood PS-20  
Micronta SWR meter  
Alan SWR/modulation/power to 2 kW meter  
TS 520 Icom HF transceiver  
RCI-2950 10-meter mobile transceiver  
Icom IC 211 2 meter transceiver  
Ranger RCI-2950 10 meter transceiver  
Icom IC 211 2 meter transceiver  
Ranger AR-3500 10 meter transmitter  
Yaesu FT 2400H 2 meter transceiver  
Royce XL AM CB and various mobile mount antennas

NO SHIP - PICK UP ONLY

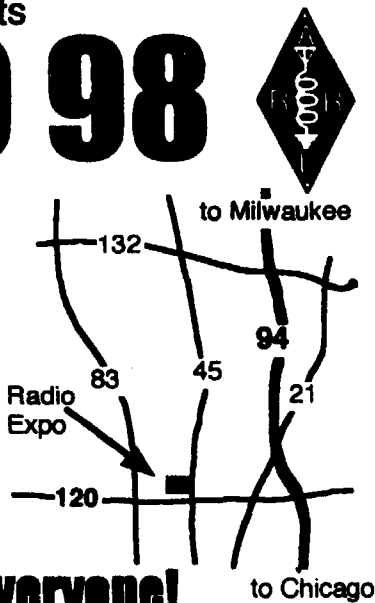
Call (715) 665-2374



The Chicago FM Club presents

# RADIO EXPO 98

**SEPTEMBER  
26th & 27th  
LAKE COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS  
RTS. 45 & 120  
GRAYSLAKE IL**



## Radios | Computers | Electronics for everyone!

Newest amateur equipment from major manufacturers  
Computer hardware and software by leading distributors  
4 large buildings (over 50,000 sq ft) for indoor flea market tables  
Hundreds of outdoor flea market sellers filling the fairgrounds  
Advanced tickets \$5 - At the Gate \$6 - Good both days - Kids under 12 free  
FREE PARKING - Outdoor electrical hookups available - FREE CAMPING  
VEC testing both days  
Interesting forums presented both days  
Talk-in on the CFMC repeater 146.16/76 MHz (107.2 Hz PL)  
Ladies program - Arts and crafts  
Questions ??? Call Radio Expo (708) 457-0966 (Voice-Mail & FAX)  
or visit our web site at <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

--- Cut Here --- --- Cut Here --- --- Cut Here --- --- Cut Here ---  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Table Reservations for all buildings - \$20.00 per table (8ft long) - good both days \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Building assignment at discretion of CFMC / No table reservations accepted after Sept. 12, 1998

Advanced sale tickets - \$5.00 - REQUIRED with tables - good both days \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Electric - Inside - \$10.00 both days \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Outside electric - \$10.00 good for entire event \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to: CHICAGO FM CLUB & send to: PO Box 56724 Harwood Hts IL 60656-0724  
Remember to send a #10 size self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.



# PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

## Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

**Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output**

### MEETING MINUTES June 2, 1998

Meeting was called to order by N9SDI, others present were: N9NMH, N9IAB, N9LIA, N9TTA, N9MEA, KB9SRY, KB9RXXB, N9NRC, KB9CKR, KB9DED, KB9JWQ, KB9JKW, KC9NW, KB9PVI, N9NQW, N9NRA, K9JXW, KA9DQQ, K9JPS, KB9FRB, KB9DZG, W9VHA, and KB9MCZ. Minutes (Published in BSSS) Approved: N9NRA and KB9DZG. Treasurer's Report, Approved: N9LIA & N9TTA.

**Upcoming events:** WVRA Picnic - July 11 - Marathon Park, Shelter #3 1:00-9:00 p.m.  
Biathlon Bike Race - Nine Mile Rec. - July 19.  
Gear Grinder Bike Race - Sept. 13.

### Old Business

Status of 6m repeater - (Jack, N9LIA, Mark, N9MEA) Everything all set - need antenna from WX9W - N9IAB to handle.

Special Events Station - W9W - May 29-30 Thanks to participants. Comment from N9MEA about shut down during night due to lack of ops.

Special Service Club Application (N9SDL) - granted March 18 - received 5/29. Can use SSC emblem on QSLs, etc.

Field Day, June 27-28, - Gave listing to Wausau Area Events (Handout) N9LIA chair. - More details on Wed night nets.

Rib Mountain tower: N9SDI has written letter to Bob Wundroch, Wis. Education Communication Board with cc to

James Sheetz, Wis. Public Television.

Net controls: Have ops as follows: 1st - KB9DZG, 2nd - WD9CPY, 3rd - KB9OPN, 4th - W9WW (formerly KA1T), 5th - open, Alts: KB9DED, N9LIA, N9SDL.

Insurance (N9MEA): New policy through Manson Ins. (Heritage) - considerable savings plus antennas, coax and towers included now.

### New Business

National Guard Army for future meetings - August, 98. Letter sent to Maj. Ronge - no response yet.

Desk mic for club radios, N9IAB to look into Shure mics (at Forward) if available for donation, otherwise to look into buying a Kenwood MC-60. Highway

Clean up volunteers - Club interested - N9SDI to look into this. Consider having a trading post at club meetings - chance to buy or sell after the business meeting.

Boy Scout Fall Camporee - theme is Communications - Council Grounds St. Park Oct. 9-11.

### Upcoming programs

July 11 - Picnic and Foxhunt. Aug. 4 - HF antenna projects

Next Meeting - WVRA Picnic, July 11. Adjournment KC9NW/KB9DZG.

Program: Directional Antennas/Foxhunting - KB9DED. Thanks Mike, KB9DED.

*Respectfully submitted:  
Kim Kunze, N9SDL*

## The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI

ARRL Affiliated

Providing Communications for American Red Cross and ARES

Mary Urban, N9ZWE, Secretary

c/o RMC • P. O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 53401-0003

e-mail: w9udu@wi.net • Web: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>

### MEETING MINUTES May 11, 1998

The May 11, 1998 regular meeting of the Racine Megacycle Club opened at 7:30 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building. President Rees Roberts, K9UUT, and Secretary Mary Urban, N9ZWE, were present.

Secretary Mary, N9ZWE, read the minutes of the April 13, 1998 meeting. Bob, W9EH, moved to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer Dave, AA9HL, read the treasurer's report. Bob, W9EH, moved to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and approved.

Vice President Bob Burgermeister, W9EH, gave a report regarding our application for a 501(c)(3) tax status. He gave the details involving the proxy statement mailing and vote which is necessary to amend the Articles of Incorporation. A special meeting will occur on June 8, prior to the regular membership meeting. Paul, N9RGW, made a motion to put a stamp on the return envelopes which are included with the proxy statements. It was seconded and approved.

Larry, WA9JMO, gave the Education Committee report. The last class was yesterday. Two newly licensed hams were present.

Mary, N9ZWE, gave the History

Committee report. The minutes from 1953 to 1967 were found at the Red Cross building. The list of board members since 1946 is now almost complete. In 1954, Jim Fox, W9LXY, was appointed the first W9UDU trustee.

Mary handed out an e-mail address list of the club members.

Rob, KF9ZT, announced there will be a Hamfest Committee meeting on May 20 at Athens Restaurant at 7 p.m.

### Old Business

Activities Director Jonathan, KB9PUF, needs volunteers for setup and takedown at Field Day.

Rees, K9UUT, gave an update about the club's Web site.

### New Business

Jim, W9LXY, announced that Elmer Petersen, WA9QEM, died May 9.

Kathy, N9ZWN, announced that the ham banquet has been tentatively rescheduled for September 26 at Infusino's Restaurant.

A motion was made by Bob, W9EH, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. The motion was seconded and accepted.

Lloyd, WB9RGO, gave a report about his participation in the Emergency Preparedness exercises in Maryland. □

**CARTOONS:** Bob Beasley, K6BJH, has had to leave the india ink lid on. Other things have taken priority. We'll miss his unique style, especially since most of what he drew were reality-based. THANK YOU, Bob! Joe Ash, W9ODV, Sheboygan, sends a panel along every now and then, and the one below was completed on Joe's 80th birthday. Many happy returns, Joe. And thanks to both of you for helping us to take things just a bit less seriously. Humor is contagious, and it's universal. Thanks again! - K9ZZ

**BUT MIKE, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S  
A BIT TOO EARLY TO START JUNIOR  
ON HIS NOVICE TEST...??**



## Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Art Evans, KA9KLZ, Secretary

213 N. Jefferson • Cuba City WI 53807-1558

## WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1200	0700	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1800	1300	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2330	1830	K9UTQ
WNN	Yes	3723	0000	1700	N9MXW
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1930	N9BOL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	2000	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2300	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61 (Mondays CDT)	0030 (Menomonee Area)	1930	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12 (Green Bay Area)	0245	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0200	2100	
RACES	No	3993.5	1400 (LSB Sunday)	0900	WA9OAY

### Wisconsin NTS report May 1998

May brought an increase in both traffic and net participation.

In May, with all seven nets reporting, 3304 stations passed 2179 messages: BWN/1819, BEN/86, WSBN/84, WNN/31, WSSN/26, WIN-E/93, and WIN-L/40.

Pat Carlson, KB9OCZ, is the new net manager for the Wisconsin Novice Net. Our thanks to Rob, KA9GBG, for his years of service as WNN net manager and let us give our continued support to Pat in the future.

On a sadder note, the North Woods Traffic Net is no more. The net was dropped due to lack of participation, brought on by the reduced coverage of the repeater in Rhinelander. All of us in the Wisconsin nets offer our thanks to Mary Berger, NS9Q, for her years of service as net manager for the NWTN.

Eight stations had traffic totals in excess of 100, three of whom made Brass Pounders League. The stations are: K9-JPS/1302 (BPL), WB9JSW/697 (BPL), W9RCW/646 (BPL), W9CBE/328, WB9-YPY/312, W9YCV/140, K9RTB/124, and

Continued on page 10



## Mancorad Radio Club

Mary Langer, KB9GOY,  
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI  
54221-0204



**2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output**

### ManCoRad Minutes May 13, 1998

The May meeting was called to order at 1931 hrs. by President, Roger, W9NPX.

The minutes were approved as printed in "Badger State Smoke Signals". Making the motion was Red, N9GHE, and seconded by Eric, AF9J.

Glenn, AA9MT, read the treasurer's report and a motion was made by Eric, AF9J, and seconded by Dick, N9QFY, to approve.

### OLD BUSINESS

We had our annual hamfest on Saturday, May 9 and it was a success all the way around. We had a good group of workers and quite a few vendors. It takes a lot of work to put it all together and a special thank you goes to Glenn, AA9MT, for all the time and energy he put into this year's hamfest. It couldn't be done without everyone pitching in. Eric, AF9J, said they had about 17 people for --congratulations. One of our club members won the grand prize Bill, WD9ERN.

Roger, W9NPX, and Denise, N4WKG, delivered the honorary lifetime certificate to Chuck, W9BZU. They said he was very appreciative of receiving this.

Red, N9GHE, reported there was no recent news from the city as to when we would have to be out of our club room.

The sub event is coming up on August 15 on the Cobia. Fred, W6BSF, and Eric, AF9J, are still looking for people to help operate. Come in through the museum, you don't have to pay, and ask for Fred or Eric, they will get you on. Any tech can go and operate and have fun. They will be operating 40 and 20 meters.

There will not be any ManCoRad meetings in the months of June, July and August. If there is any club news, it will be passed along on the Thursday evening net at 8:30 and the Sunday morning net at 10:00 on 146.61. Fred, W6BSF, is also compiling a list of e-mail addresses so he can also communicate that way.

There will not be a Field Day due to

lack of interest. Sheboygan opened theirs to us and we can join them. Contact Fred, W6BSF, for directions.

### NEW BUSINESS

We are organizing a family picnic, possibly the beginning of October. Some people are doing some checking as to getting a cabin in a park somewhere where there will be things for the children to do. Thoughts of inviting Sheboygan to join us.

If you want a name badge with your call sign on, contact Roger, W9NPX and he will order them for you.

Erv, W9OMO, has some 8mm film from club get togethers and goings on from years ago and would be willing to put on a program after our September meeting. Should be an interesting program. Everyone got a kick out of the picture he submitted to "Smoke Signals" in May from 1977. It is interesting to see how some of us change.

The meeting was adjourned at 2000 with a motion by Bill, K9DUX, and seconded by Ken, K9HAG.

*Submitted for approval  
Mary Langer, KB9GOY  
Secretary*

### Meeting Attendance

Glenn	AA9MT
Mary	KB9GOY
Roger	W9NPX
Fred	W6BSF
Bill	WD9ERN
Dick	N9QFY
Theresa	KB9KXE
Ervin	W9OMO
Don	KB9NTL
Bill	K9DUX
Red	N9GHE
Larry	K9LWI
Ken	K9HAG
Gene	KB9KXF
Eric	AF9J
Len	N9QFO
Paul	N9QFX
Denise	N4WKG
Charles	W9GXD
Chuck	N9WUN

## Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

*Continued from page 10*

N9KHD/105. Twenty-nine stations submitted Station Activity Reports, and twelve stations submitted Public Service Honor Roll Reports.

I mail my reports to League Headquarters on the 7th of the month. That makes the deadline for reports the 6th. I can accept reports until I start printing them up for mailing. If you can catch me on the BWN on the morning of the 7th all would be well.

Hale Blakely, W9CBE, Asst. STM will also accept reports and forward them to me. Hale covers most of the CW and SSB nets so there is someone on almost every net to take reports.

Reports can also be sent via packet or e-mail. My packet address is:

KA9KLZ@KC9KQ.WI.USA.NOAM

My e-mail address is: aevans@mhtc.net

Thanks to all stations who participate in the Wisconsin nets. You are the nets and Wisconsin nets are the best. 73.

Arthur A. Evans, KA9KLZ  
Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager



## SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Mike Musiel, KF9SJ, Secretary  
N9001 Dairyland Dr., Cleveland WI 53015

The June meeting of the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by club president, Kurt, N9ZMO. The SCARC meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building, 2032 Erie Ave. in Sheboygan at 7 p.m. The regular DX report was presented by Art, K9XJ. In addition to the report, Art played a portion of a recording by Peter Sellers, a rendition of the song "Night and Day", by Cole Porter. The lyrics of the recording were "sung" in Morse code. An update on ARES activities, and club equipment in storage was presented by Mike, K9SJ. The club needs to find a permanent storage location for its tower sections, antennas, and other equipment. The club is still running a fund drive for the Red Cross. If you are interested in helping with this drive in the name of the SCARC, please make a check out to the SCARC noting it is for the Red Cross fund drive. The club will then present a cumulative check to the Red Cross.

Thanks in advance to all those who help in this drive. Nominations were taken for club officers, and a motion was moved, seconded and passed to elect those nominated to the board. The position of club president is still open, and will be discussed at the SCARC board meeting on the fourth Tuesday in June. Stay tuned for announcements on the Monday night net for news regarding this. The newly elected, and re-elected board members are:

Vice President, Larry, WB9FXQ  
Treasurer, Steve, N9TRK  
Secretary, Steve, AA9SJ  
Board Member, Sky, N9XRU  
Board Member, Bob, KB9PQI

In public service news, Mike, K9SJ, discussed the Plank Trail event on September 12th. All operators who can be available for this day, please contact Mike. ARES will also be attempting to contact organizers of the Leukemia Ride to

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

249 Georgia Street North • Stevens Point WI 54481-1040

### MEETING MINUTES June 10, 1998

The meeting was called to order promptly at 19:30 hours by President Mike Pagel, K9UW.

First order of business was a program presented by Mary Eiden, KA9FAS/AG. Motion by David Tamres, KB9IIF, and second by Mary Eiden, KA9FAS/AG, to approve the May meeting minutes as published in *Badger State Smoke Signals* was approved by the membership.

Joe Larson, N9JW, gave the treasurer's report for May and a preliminary report for the Swapfest. Complete figures for the Swapfest will be presented when the final expenses are tabulated. A motion by David Tamres, KB9IIF, and Robert Baird, W9NN, to accept the treasurer's report as presented was approved.

Repeater Report: Robert Baird, W9NN, reports that conditions with the .985 machine remain the same as last month. Some unknown source is emitting sporadic noise and causing interference. Perhaps the environment in which the machine is installed is no longer viable. After some discussion by members as to the solution of the problem there was no action taken. Mike Pagel, K9UW, informs us that the .670 machine is operating satisfactorily.

Joe Larson, N9JW, informed us of the club's participation in Special Olympics and said that he could have used more help. He gave us ten reasons why we are still needed to provide communications even though there are other modes providing the same.

John Feltz, W9JN, spoke on the success of the recent Swapfest. He thanks every one who has helped in any way. There are several areas in which we could improve as was listed in a statement issued by John. Kudos are in order for John who has chaired the Swapfest for two years and has spent countless hours of planning.

**Thanks for reading B999!**

organizing, recruiting help, securing vendors and many other tasks. Job well done, John!!!

Jerry Fadness, W9GF, led the VE team that conducted testing at the Swapfest. Jerry remarked that, after few obstacles and challenges, testing was completed with a good number of applicants passing tests. Thanks to Jerry and the VE team.

Jerry Fadness, W9GF, also reported on the outcome of the two recent weather alerts and thanked those who responded.

Congratulations are in order for four persons who have recently upgraded their license status. David Tamres, KB9IIF, and Mary Eiden, KA9FAS, to General, and Kathy Mallon to Advanced and Mike Eiden, WD9JID, to Extra.

Field Day. No report available. Field Day Activities will be held at the Art Wysocki, N9BCA, residence June 27 and 28.

New Business: Some discussion about joining with other area clubs to form or organize a group of VE's to conduct regional testing among the participating clubs. More discussion at a later date.

REMINDER: Next Meeting July 8. 7:30 PM Room 107 UWSP Science Building. Secretary's note: "A man would do nothing, if he waited until he could do it so well, that no one would find fault with what he had done"

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Al Mallek, N9WBS, Club Secretary*

### Meeting Attendance

Art Wysocki, N9BCA  
Robert Baird, W9NN  
David Tamres, KB9IIF  
Mary Eiden, KA9FAS/AG  
Jerry Fadness, W9GF  
Kathy Mallon, KB9ROJ/AA  
Joe Larson, N9JW  
Mike Pagel, K9UW  
Joe Omernik, N9CGV  
John Feltz, W9JN  
Al Mallek, N9WBS

confirm date and time of the event. As of this printing, we have not heard from the event organizers. If you are new to public service communications, this is a fun event to work. Again, stay tuned to Monday night nets for further information regarding this. As I mentioned in a earlier issue, if you are using e-mail, you can sign up for the Sheboygan Hams mailing list by submitting your e-mail address to julian@bongo.tele.com. Email sent to shebham@tele.com will be forwarded to all list subscribers. Thanks to N6ARE for providing the mail server for SCARC and ARES use.

### Net Schedules

7 p.m. Monday Nights, SCARC Fun Net, 147.06 PL 107.2, +.

Traders Net - Following the Monday night net on the first Monday of the month.

6:30 p.m. Thursday Nights, ARES Net, 147.255 PL 127.3, +.444.175 PL 107.2 +.

10 net on 28.350 USB. Meets at 7:30 p.m., following the Monday night 2 meter net.

*Respectfully submitted:  
Michael J. Musiel, KF9SJ*

## WANTED

Power supply for Tempo 1. Bill, (715) 837-1618.



**Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.****Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary****E616 810th Avenue****Knapp, WI 54749****2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output**

Greetings, RCRA sponsors and guests. Get well wishes to N0PDD, Bob Stark, at Winona. We can say that the fish near his camp at Alma are safe for only for a short time. Bob reports that the work on his repeater controller at Winona on 147.885/.285 PL 114.8 is receiving a new controller and phone patching for emergencies will also be available.

Recent storm activity has taken down the tower at WB9YMB, Jim Hilborn, at Menomonie. Jim was covered by insurance and will be putting up new antennas.

K0DL, Don Lund, reminds us to be to be careful in sending your equipment through the mail. Take advantage of the consignment service offered by your local radio clubs is our best advice.

All the best to retiring science teacher WB9WKO, Ron Purvis from Knapp. Ron celebrated his last day at Menomonie High by being brought to school in a limo accompanied by his YL, KA9WZP, and picked up at the end of the day by a helicopter. Many of us remember Ron as an auctioneer for the club and he has worked very hard over the years to bring youth into ham radio with great success. Some of his hobbies include flying, motorbiking, and a new floor in going into the barn for a work shop.

Congratulations to new amateur, Andy Wagner, on passing his Technician Plus at the recent exams held at Hudson. Preparation for the code was just from tapes and practice was for about three weeks. Andy is looking to purchase an

ADI dual-bander while he waits for his call.

KG9CT, Chuck, Bricton has spread his wings "gold wing" that is by start out motorbiking to Louisville via a stop in Kansas City to pick up his son from out east. The whole trip should take a couple weeks and camping along the way is made is made easy with the pull along trailer.

KB9RQE, Dan Holmen, at Colfax, recently went fishing at Silver and caught some northern. Dan finds summer work on nearby farms.

Our thanks to KB9LUK, James, and KB9QGK, Deene, at Eau Galle, for their donations of some home appliances that will be sold by RCRA. Also, our thanks to K9KGB, Bill Duncan, for some similar items.

Please make welcome new family member, Paul Morton, N9OTU, at Chippewa Falls. Recently relocation from Illinois, Paul and family are considering rural life near Sand Creek.

NQ9X, Ed Van Sickle, at Whitehall, has an Ameritron amplifier and power supply, for sale. Reach Ed at (715) 694-2101. Also available is a Nye Viking tuner.

We regret the passing of KA9OXG, Donna Young, at Menomonie, who had waged a long and valiant fight.

The association was recommended to handle an amateur estate by W9QW, Jon Fuller, at Menomonie. Please find the complete list in this issue of BSSS. All items are pickup. Thank you. □

**Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club****Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, President****2373 Willow Avenue • Medford WI 54451****MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2nd at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located

in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex. □

**Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.****Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary****E616 810th Avenue****Knapp, WI 54749****2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output**

Greetings, RCRA sponsors and guests. Get well wishes to N0PDD, Bob Stark, at Winona. We can say that the fish near his camp at Alma are safe for only for a short time. Bob reports that the work on his repeater controller at Winona on 147.885/.285 PL 114.8 is receiving a new controller and phone patching for emergencies will also be available.

Recent storm activity has taken down the tower at WB9YMB, Jim Hilborn, at Menomonie. Jim was covered by insurance and will be putting up new antennas.

K0DL, Don Lund, reminds us to be to be careful in sending your equipment through the mail. Take advantage of the consignment service offered by your local radio clubs is our best advice.

All the best to retiring science teacher WB9WKO, Ron Purvis from Knapp. Ron celebrated his last day at Menomonie High by being brought to school in a limo accompanied by his YL, KA9WZP, and picked up at the end of the day by a helicopter. Many of us remember Ron as an auctioneer for the club and he has worked very hard over the years to bring youth into ham radio with great success.

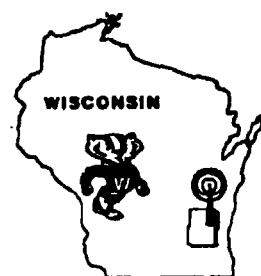
Some of his hobbies include flying, motorbiking, and a new floor in going into the barn for a work shop.

Congratulations to new amateur, Andy Wagner, on passing his Technician Plus at the recent exams held at Hudson. Preparation for the code was just from tapes and practice was for about three weeks. Andy is looking to purchase an ADI dual-bander while he waits for his call.

KG9CT, Chuck, Bricton has spread his wings "gold wing" that is by start out motorbiking to Louisville via a stop in Kansas City to pick up his son from out east. The whole trip should take a couple weeks and camping along the way is made is made easy with the pull along trailer.

KB9RQE, Dan Holmen, at Colfax, recently went fishing at Silver and caught some northern. Dan finds summer work on nearby farms.

Our thanks to KB9LUK, James, and KB9QGK, Deene, at Eau Galle, for their donations of some home appliances that will be sold by RCRA. Also, our thanks

*Continued on page 13***Washington County Amateur Radio Club**

**Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW, Secretary**  
465 Elder Lane  
Allenton, WI 53002-9799

**Club Repeater: 146.73 MHz**<http://www.nconnect.net/~WCARC>**MEETING MINUTES  
June 11, 1998**

The June 11, 1998 meeting of the Washington County ARC was called to order by President Paul (Rip) Ripple at 7:35 p.m. There were eleven members attending. They were: Tom, N9LZW; Dave, KA9RNU; Gary, W9XT; Kevin, N9SQB; Abe, KG9LO; Bill, N9IBU; Walt, N9LLS; Chuck, GIG; Sherm, W9NGT; and Don, K9GR.

The minutes from the May meeting were read by Secretary Tom, N9LZW. There was a motion by Bill, N9IBU, seconded by Don, K9GR. Motion carried.

The financial report was read by Treasurer Dave, KA9RNU. There was a motion by Walt, N9LLS, seconded by KG9LO, to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

There was some discussion about the necessary quorums necessary to conduct club business and approve amendments to the constitution. It was felt that a quorum was not present this evening.

**FIELD DAY**

Rip, W9SIZ, said that we will need a crew for Field Day setup on the morning of June 27 and a crew for takedown on June 28. The food will be potluck. Coffee will be available. Operators will be needed, especially during the night.

Sherm, W9NGT, said that the 40 and 15 meters antennas have been checked and are fine. Rip, W9SIZ, said that the battery he has is OK. Tom, N9LZW, said that the battery he has is also OK.

Don, W9KG, said that the club could earn an additional points using emergency power, such as a generator. No one present seemed to have a generator to use. Rip, W9SIZ, said that we will need someone to copy the Field Day message and someone to clip the newspaper announcement. More meeting schedules will be printed to serve as handouts at Field Day.

Rip, W9SIZ, asked for members to introduce themselves since new members were attending this meeting.

Bill, N9NIB, reported on the storm that struck the area on May 31. Bill said he became aware that West Bend Police Department needed extra help at the West Bend airport, so he went out there and relieved a police officer who was protecting the scene. Additional help could have been used.

**New Business**

Club members welcomed new member Kevin, N9SQB. Kevin said that it has been about three years since he moved to West Bend from the Milwaukee area. Kevin is employed by Marched Electronics.

Rip said he has been checking ham license renewal dates for the club members. Don, W9KG, said that his was due for renewal and that he handled the renewal in the InterNet.

Rip, W9SIZ, reported that a ham was offering an HT for sale. It is a T-2500.

There was a motion by Sherm, W9NGT, seconded by Gary, W9SIZ, to adjourn the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted:*  
Tom, N9LZW, Secretary

**CLUB CALENDAR**

- 7/2/98, 7:30 p.m., Net 146.739
- 7/4/98, 9 a.m., Breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford
- 7/9/98, 7:30 pm, Meeting, Washington County Courthouse
- 7/11/98, 9 a.m., Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson
- 7/11/98, SMARC Swapfest
- 7/16/98, 9 a.m., Net, 146.730
- 7/18/98, 9 a.m., Breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford
- 7/23/98, 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730
- 7/25/98, Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson
- 7/30/98, 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730 □

**Quarter Century Wireless Association  
Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162**

**Larry McAlvy, WA9IMO**  
5400 Six Mile Road  
Radne, WI 53402



Our annual Mosquito Awareness Bash was a nice relaxing successful event. Beautiful weather, outstanding hosts, great food, wonderful guests and only one mosquito showed up. The mosquito met its demise when it landed on my hand.

Our congratulations go out to Bob Burgermeister, W9EH, as the lucky winner of \$100. Bob's name was drawn out of the brown paper bag during the Kenosha Ham Breakfast meeting on June 7th at PJ's Bar & Grill in Kenosha.

On June 6th, Wisconsin Power and Electric Co sponsored a Safety Fair at the Racine Zoo. Four of our Chapter members - Chuck Knotek, W9GKM; Spencer Clope, W9LDH; Bill Komistra, W9OVZ; and Bob Jensen, W0WLN - demonstrated Amateur Radio's ability to provide emergency communication during commercial power loss. The group used two QRP stations, one employed CW and the other operated VHF using FM. Power was gleaned from storage batteries. Handouts explaining the wonderment of Amateur Radio were distributed to several hundred exhibit visitors (my thanks to Bob,

W0WLN, for this and the next item).

Many Chapter members joined other Amateur Radio Emergency Service members in providing radio communication support for Racine's annual June Light-house Run. The Run attracted nearly 3000 participants that included Two, Four, and Ten mile competitive entries; and a "fun" walk segment. Fortunately no real emergencies were encountered although one of the several wheel chair racer experienced a wheel chair break down and had to be assisted by a "tow" truck summoned by Amateur Radio.

Our third Field Day outing in the same number of years was a grand success. The gang operated QRP radios gathering contacts from around the world. The operation took place only during the daylight hours. It seems that we all believe that night hours are for sleeping. Once the QSOs have been tallied and the logs submitted I'll be able to announce the results in next month's article.

There will not be a meeting in July.

*Continued on page 13*



## QCWA Southeastern Chapter 162

Continued from page 12

Our next event will be the annual picnic scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday, August 16, 1998 at Decision Farm, 5400 Six Mile Road in Racine (one half mile west of Hwy 31 on Hwy "G"). Attendees

are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own meat to grill. The club will supply the soft drinks and watermelon; WA9JMO and N9PAC will provide the grills and roasted corn.

The Greater Southeastern Wisconsin Ham Banquet will be held on Saturday evening, September 28, 1998 at the Charcoal Grill on Washington Avenue in Racine. Mark your calendars and watch for further details.

73, Larry McCalvy,  
WA9JMO

## Red Cedar Repeater Association

Continued from page 12

to K9KGB, Bill Duncan, for some similar items.

Please make welcome new family member, Paul Morton, N9OTU, at Chippewa Falls. Recently relocating from Illinois, Paul and family are considering rural life near Sand Creek.

NQ9X, Ed Van Sickle, at Whitehall, has an Ameritron amplifier and power supply, for sale. Reach Ed at (715) 694-2101. Also available is a Nye Viking tuner.

We regret the passing of KA9OXG, Donna Young, at Menomonie, who had waged a long and valiant fight.

The association was recommended to handle an amateur estate by W9QW, Jon Fuller, at Menomonie. Please find the complete list in this issue of BSSS. All items are pickup. Thank you. □

## Wisconsin Association of Repeaters



Mark Heimmerrmann, KF9CS, Secretary  
1523 E. Moonbeam Tr. • Appleton, WI 54915

### WAR MINUTES June 13, 1998

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gary Bargholz, at 1:00 p.m. It was held at the Bridge Inn and Restaurant in Tomahawk.

Introduction of members and guests:

Mark Heimmerrmann, KF9CS  
Dick Drew, K9PJB  
Mike Hamman, KA9BHL  
Gary Bargholz, N9UUR  
Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV  
Jim Sheetz, K9OQO  
Karl Simonson, KB9EQI  
Nels Harvey, WA9JOB  
Joyce Harvey, WB9IMA  
Jim Broulette, WB9RBD  
Joe Priebe, W9YZS  
Dan Bolander, WB9TYT

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report: We had expenses totaling \$361.50. The newsletter expense was \$331.50. Our current balance is \$3480.98. The treasurer's report was approved and accepted by the members present.

Newsletter report: A full mailing of 375 copies were sent out. It was decided to investigate and utilize a mailing service to help Ray out. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the members present. All articles and items must be submitted to Ray one month before the next meeting. The renewal application will only appear in the March newsletter to reduce confusion.

Coordinator's Report: The list of repeaters coordinated in the last couple months were listed in the last newsletter. Kenosha now has a 220 frequency rather than a 2 meter for their explorer post. Trustees can expect de-coordination to start after two years of no contact.

Coordination from Florida worked out real well (except for Dan's comments on the nice weather down there).

MACC/NFCC Report: The MACC April annual meeting in Kansas City was canceled. The NFCC is the primary focus now. MACC will probably become a subordinate of the NFCC or this might be absorbed by the NFCC eventually. Nels is chairman of a committee to draft language to have repeater coordination as a requirement in the FCC rules. Dealing with the FCC on amateur radio matters is going to be difficult because amateur radio is not high on their priority list.

Chairmen's Report: Gary Bargholz thanked all of the Officers and Appointees for their support. Gary stressed the importance of E-mail and how it expedites material. He would like to make up a master list of the WAR members. The list would not be published and only used for time critical items such as LMCC. If there is nothing time critical the list will be used once a quarter to remind people of the next meeting.

As chairman, Gary wrote a letter regarding the LMCC proposal to the FCC. It was recommended that individuals send

letters to the FCC. Amateur radio bands are being threatened largely from many different areas right now. There is a bill in Congress that says the FCC will make no additional allocations within the amateur bands. This is an official bill in Congress that would say "FCC hands off". The key words are "equivalent replacement spectrum". There has to be equivalent use

of the spectrum. A bill is currently before Congress. Its been handed off to the Commerce Committee of Congress. We found that Wisconsin representative Scott Klug of the 2nd district is on the commerce committee that is currently reviewing our amateur radio bill. I encourage any and all of you in the 2nd district to write Scott Klug. Encourage him to research the amateur radio bill and hope that he would support amateur radio and this bill.

The ARRL has come up with a new form. The ARRL wants amateurs to complete the form when they participate in volunteer services. The ARRL is trying to demonstrate the worth of amateur radio as a public service. This is the ammunition needed to head off further incursions into our spectrum. The form is located at

"http://www.arrl.org/field/forms/...". The specific files are "fsd157.pdf" and "fsd157.doc".

Old Business: WAR needs to send \$70 for dues to MACC.

New Business: One of the members told Dan Bolander and the group of a coordination conflict in his area. Dan came up with a solution to correct the problem.

The next WAR meeting will be held in Mequon at the Breeze Inn on September 12, 1998.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Mark Heimmerrmann (KF9CS)  
Wisconsin Association of Repeaters,  
Secretary

## MFJ Switching Power Supplies

Power your HF transceiver, 2 Meter/440 MHz mobile/base and accessories with these new 25 or 45 Amp MFJ MightyLite™ Switching Power Supplies! No RF hash... Super lightweight... Super small... Volt/Amp Meters...



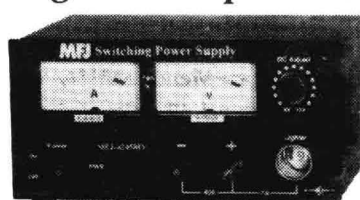
MFJ-4225MV 25 Amp \$149.95 Add s/h

MFJ's new adjustable voltage switching power supplies do it all! You can power your HF transceiver or 2-Meter/440 MHz mobile or base and accessories.

MFJ's MightyLites™ are so lightweight and small you can carry them in the palm of your hand! Take them with you anywhere. No more picking up and hauling around heavy, bulky power supplies that can give you a painful backache, pulled muscle or hernia.

MFJ's 25 Amp MightyLite™ weighs just 3.7 lbs. -- that's 5 times lighter than an equivalent conventional power supply. MFJ's 45 Amp version is even more dramatic -- 8 times lighter and weighs just 5.5 pounds! No RF hash!

These babies are clean... Your buddies won't hear any RF hash on



MFJ-4245MV 45 Amp \$199.95 Add s/h

your signal! You won't hear any in your receiver either!

Some competing switching power supplies generate objectionable RF hash in your transmitted and received signal.

These super clean MFJ MightyLites™ meet all FCC Class B regulations.

Low ripple... Highly Regulated Less than 35 mV peak-to-peak ripple under 25 or 45 amp full load. Load regulation is better than 1.5% under full load.

### Fully Protected

You won't burn up these power supplies! They are fully protected with Over Voltage and Over Current protection circuits.

### Worldwide Versatility

MFJ MightyLites™ can be used anywhere in the world! They have switchable AC input

voltage and work from 85 to 135 VAC or 170 to 260 VAC. Easily replaceable fuse.

### MightyLites™... Mighty Features

MFJ MightyLites™ feature a front-panel voltage control. It lets you vary the output voltage from 9 to 15 Volts DC and gives you a highly regulated voltage output.

You get an easy access front-panel with five-way binding posts for heavy duty use and a cigarette lighter socket for mobile accessories. The MFJ-4245MV has two sets of quick-connects on the rear for accessories.

Large 3 inch dual meters are brightly illuminated to make it easy to monitor load voltage and current.

A whisper, quiet internal fan efficiently cools your power supply for long life.

### Two models to choose from...

MFJ-4225MV, \$149.95. 25 Amps maximum or 22 Amps continuous. Weighs 3.7 pounds. Measures 5 3/4" x 4 1/2" x 6 D inches.

MFJ-4245MV, \$199.95. 45 Amps maximum or 40 Amps continuous. Weighs 5.5 pounds. Measures 7 1/2" x 4 3/4" x 9 D inches.

### MFJ No Matter What™ Warranty

MightyLites™ are covered by MFJ's famous No Matter What™ one year limited warranty. MFJ will repair or replace (at our option) your power supply for one full year.

## MFJ 35/30 Amp Adjustable Regulated DC Power Supply

Massive 19.2 pound transformer... No RF hash... Adjustable 1 to 14 VDC...



NEW! MFJ-4035MV \$149.95 Add s/h

MFJ's heavy duty conventional power supply is excellent for powering your HF or 2 Meter/440 MHz transceiver and accessories.

A massive 19.2 pound transformer makes this power supply super heavy duty! It delivers 35 amps maximum and 30 amps continuous without even flexing its muscles. Plugs into any 110 VAC wall outlet.

It's highly regulated with load regulation better than 1%. Ripple voltage is less than 30 mV. No RF hash -- it's super clean!

Fully protected -- has over voltage protection, fold back short circuit protection and over-temperature protection.

You get front panel adjustable voltage from 1 to 14 VDC with a convenient detent set at 13.8 VDC. A pair of front-panel meters

let you monitor voltage and current.

Three sets of output terminals include a pair of heavy duty five-way binding posts for HF/VHF radios, two pairs of quick-connects for shack accessories and a covered cigarette lighter socket for mobile accessories.

A front-panel fuse holder makes fuse replacement easy. Whisper quiet fan speed increases as load current increases -- keeps components cool. 9 1/2" x 6" x 9 3/4" inches.

Your MFJ-4035MV is protected by MFJ's famous No Matter What™ one year limited warranty. MFJ will repair or replace (at our option) your power supply for one full year.

## MFJ High Current Multiple DC Power Outlets

Power two HF/VHF transceivers and six or more accessories from your 12 VDC power supply

MFJ-1118 \$69.95 Add s/h

MFJ-1118, \$69.95. This is MFJ's most versatile and highest current Deluxe Multiple DC Power Outlet. It lets you power two HF and/or VHF transceivers and six or more accessories from your transceiver's main 12 VDC power supply.

Two pairs of super heavy duty 30 amp 5-way binding posts connect your transceivers. Each pair is fused and RF bypassed. Handles 35 Amps total. "ON" LED.

Six pairs of heavy duty, RF bypassed 5-way binding posts let you power your accessories. They handle 15 Amps total, are protected by a master fuse and have an

ON/OFF switch with an "ON" LED indicator.

### Built-in 0-25 VDC voltmeter.

You get 6 feet of super heavy duty eight gauge color-coded cable with ring tongue terminals. Binding posts are spaced for standard dual banana plugs.

Heavy duty aluminum construction. 12 1/2" x 2 3/4" x 2 1/2" inches.

MFJ-1116, \$44.95. Similar to MFJ-1118. No 30 amp posts. Has "ON" LED and 0-25 VDC voltmeter. 15 amps total.

MFJ-1112, \$29.95. Similar to MFJ-1116. No on/off switch, LED, meter, fuse.

MFJ-1116 \$44.95 Add s/h

MFJ-1112 \$29.95 Add s/h

### Free MFJ Catalog

Nearest dealer/Orders... 800-647-1800

http://www.mfjenterprises.com FAX: (601) 323-6551  
• 1 year No Matter What™ warranty • 30 day money back guarantee (less s&h) on orders from MFJ • Add s/h  
MFJ ENTERPRISES, INC.  
P.O. Box 494, Miss. State, MS 39762  
(601) 323-5869; 8-4:30 CST, Mon-Fri  
Technical Help: (601) 323-0549  
Prices and specifications subject to change. © 1998 MFJ Enterprises, Inc.

MFJ... the world leader in ham radio accessories





# THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC

609 Wilson Street • Neenah, WI 54956

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 720 N. Broadway (Upper West) • Green Bay, WI 54303

## WAPR News - July 1998

Happy Holiday weekend to all, I hope you have a pleasant 4th of July weekend.

As you know, last month brought us the WAPR annual meeting. I do not have the meeting minutes available to me as of this writing, but have general information concerning the major business that was discussed.

Remember that the annual elections are an important feature of this annual business meeting. As it stands now, last year's officers will be retained for this year, unless for some reason, any of the officers are unable to continue their role. So far, I have not heard of anyone wishing to change this, so we can assume that things will continue as they were.

I was unable to attend this meeting, so therefore have few details concerning everything that transpired. I will publish the entire meeting minutes as soon as they become available.

Last month I mentioned that the "Using the Wisconsin Network" series has drawn to a close. We'll be running articles of general interest to packeteers in place of this feature. This month's article will deal with the LMCC petition you have heard so much about, and how it affects Wisconsin packet radio. Some people have rather extensive knowledge of the inner workings of the Wisconsin Packet Radio Network, most don't. This article will help you gain insight into the importance of this very important "secondary allocation" and why it is so important to keep it. If you care at all about packet radio, then you will want to read this.

Another article you will find on this page concerns severe weather reporting and packet radio's role there. Some of you may know that I, along with Scott Cole, KB9AMM coordinate severe weather reporting (SKYWARN) activities for the Green Bay NWS Central Warning Area. This area extends from the Lake Michigan shoreline county of Manitowoc northward, from Wood County northward to the Michigan border, and all points in between. It is our plan to implement packet radio as part of the reporting system next year. You will find details on how we plan to implement it and why in that article. As we get closer to the actual implementation of this system, I will provide more details on the use of the system. This month's article will provide an overview of the planned system.

Last month you probably read that the Black Creek backbone node will be back in operation soon. So far I have not seen it active, but have been assured that it will be back on soon. I have also heard that Rich, KC9NW is trying to make time to repair his UHF backbone node in Wausau. You may recall that Bill Jablonske, W9NNS was operating a node and BBS in the Weston area (near Wausau) until his transfer out of the area. Rich will try and fill the backbone node void so that once again we will have backbone service from the west-central part of the state into the Fox Valley. Rich is, like most of us, a busy guy and is involved in various aspects of amateur radio. So it may take a little while to get his node back to fully-operational status. As soon as I hear the word, I will let you know when things are back on track.

That's all for this month. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

## What the LMCC Petition Means to Wisconsin Packet Radio

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Unless you have been inhabiting a cave somewhere or out of amateur radio lately, you doubtless have heard of the pending Land Mobile Communications Council petition concerning the 70cm UHF band and our shared use of it. This article explores why this band is key to Wisconsin packet radio and what it would mean to us if the LMCC had its way and we were "removed" from the band.

At first glance, packeteers may not think that this possible reallocation means much to us. After all, most of our operations appear to be in the VHF band, centered around the 145 MHz region of the radio spectrum. We type to and message each other on a local basis on this band, we connect to our BBS's here, and do all manner of "packet-type-things" here. However, there is far more to the story than that, and here is why.

I mentioned that we connect to our local BBS's most often on VHF. That is the norm. However, the BBS's themselves communicate with one another (for mail forwarding purposes, mostly) via a high-speed UHF "backbone" system. This backbone occupies the 446 MHz region in Wisconsin. In other parts of the country, this portion of the 70cm band, along with the lower portion of the band (420-430 MHz) is used for this purpose. You will recall that the LMCC petition calls for the reallocation of 420-430 and 440-450 MHz portions of the 70cm band. In effect, this would force us to relocate an entire statewide backbone network, if we were forced to vacate.

How practical is relocation for us? Start with the radios. Most of our backbone radios are modified surplus commercial radios. They are intended to operate in the 450-470 MHz region

of the radio spectrum. Now consider, for the moment, that there is room for us in the 430-440 MHz part of the 70cm band (unlikely, but for the purposes of illustration, let's "go there").

A radio designed for the 450-470 MHz band gives fairly close-to-spec performance at 446 MHz. When forced to operate even in the high end of the 430-440 MHz region, oscillators stop oscillating, power amplifiers stop amplifying, and receivers stop receiving. Is it practical to then modify these radios to further "downband" them?

The short answer is "No". They are simply too far away from their intended operating frequency to make it practical. It would take quite a re-engineering job to make them work there, one might as well start over and start from scratch.

Antennas would have to be modified, or replaced. Because we are going down in frequency, antenna element length would have to be increased. This might be possible in some cases, but generally it will not. So now, we are talking about replacing the radios and antennas.

Regular readers might recall that most off-the-shelf PLL based radios are not suitable for high-performance at 9600 bps. In spite of what the advertising literature says, we have not had good results with these types of radios. While there are radios that will function satisfactorily in backbone service, these of course, cost money. Most of these radios are also crystal-controlled, adding yet another expense. So far we have had to replace everything in a node stack besides the feedline, TNC, and power supply. There are no inexpensive alternatives to this replacement.

Now multiply this by the number of nodes we have in Wisconsin, and you will see that there will be a huge cost involved.

All of this assumes that there will be space in the 430-440 MHz segment of the 70 cm band for us to use. Chances are, this will not happen. Remember that there are several other users of the 70 cm band that would also be displaced. They also would be looking for replacement space, and any equitable reassignment would limit our available frequency space. So where would we go to make up the loss of these frequencies? Consider the alternatives:

6 Meters - Cannot accommodate the high-speed data rate we require due to the bandwidth limitations. Also prone to noise interference.

2 Meters - No room here, already congested in a lot of areas.

900 MHz. - In some areas, it may be feasible to use 900 MHz for backbone linkages, but we also suffer from the high cost of radios and antennas.

1.2 GHz. - Range limits us here, along with the radio cost. It may well require a doubling of the number of nodes in a given circuit to achieve the results we see on the 70 cm band.

The same can be said for any band higher in frequency. After all, we are already in the microwave region when we go above about 1 GHz. Microwaves are subject to all kinds of path

problems that have to be planned for.

The bottom line is that the additional costs of relocation cannot be borne by the amateur community. It would simply wipe out the progress we have made in building the Wisconsin Network, and seriously stunt our future growth.

So now you can see that this proposed reallocation would not only cause us hardship, but would seriously erode our ability to provide emergency communications via packet, and to provide an alternative messaging system for other public service activities.

Now is the time to speak up and let your point-of-view be known! Take the time to comment on this destructive proposal for rulemaking. Naturally, make your comments germane and non-inflammatory. When amateur radio wants to make a point, we need to do it in a civilized manner. We need to make this point!

The best information concerning the details of the LMCC petition, and how to comment on it, come from the ARRL. For those of you with Internet Access, you can look at the ARRL Web site for the info. The URL is: <http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/RM-9267>.

If you can't get to the Web Site, you can always get the info via Snail-Mail. Write to: The American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, Ct. 06111-1494.

Let your voice be heard in this important matter!

## Digital Severe Weather Reporting coming to NWS/GRB in 1999

As one of two coordinators for Amateur SKYWARN activities at the National Weather Service in Green Bay, it became apparent to me that our voice nets were becoming heavily overloaded during the times that we are needed most - during the worst of weather circumstances. Regardless of how well we all observed net protocol, the sheer quantity of traffic passed during a widespread weather event made it difficult to keep up with all of the activity that 22 counties could generate. This means that in order to keep providing a useful level of public service, we would need to augment our weather reporting system that we have in place with expanded capabilities.

As anybody involved in the emergency and public service aspects of ham radio knows, the participation level that we'd like to see is not always there - shortage of personnel is a real problem. Aside from that, more people can often help alleviate a problem, but is no guarantee of a full "fix" of a problem. After all, there are only so many people that can sit at a net control desk at the NWS, and there are only so many voice repeaters that can be used in reporting.

One addition to our system that has been contemplated for the past few years is the use of packet radio in our reporting. This addition was not solely based on my interest in packet

## WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME BBS: \_\_\_\_\_ FREQ: \_\_\_\_\_ (Listing your home BBS is important)

Your HOME BBS should be a full service BBS, not your TNC's mailbox.

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_ NIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ 24HRS

I OPERATE A: \_\_\_\_\_ DIGIPEATER WITH ALIAS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKET INTEREST/EXPERTISE IS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ YES I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues goes to pay this subscription. cost \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ NO I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke Signals as a part of my WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00

COMPLETE and return this form with your check or money order - \$15.00 membership only or \$20.00 membership and Badger State Smoke Signals. made payable to W.A.P.R. (NOT payable to Bob Gedemer) to:

Bob Gedemer KA9JAC/WAPR

609 Wilson St.

Neenah, WI. 54956-3129



radio, but rather the need to handle less critical traffic with some degree of automation. While these reports still are important to us, they are not of critical "time-value" in nature. The report of a tornado, funnel aloft, or wall cloud certainly requires the speed that only voice reporting can provide. After-the-fact damage reports, or heavy rainfall reports are not as critical and can be passed on a little later. There are also instances where a net control operator cannot "instantly" appear at the NWS to operate a net. Of course, weather waits for no one, so a secondary mechanism was also needed. This is why packet seems to be the ideal medium for such secondary or absentee reporting.

While this idea was under consideration a few years ago, the Wisconsin packet radio network was not mature enough to support this kind of activity. Now we are fast approaching the stage where we can take advantage of the present network and will be able to utilize future network expansion. Packet will be practical for this type of service soon. The fall and winter season of 1998-1999 will present the opportunity to put the system in place, along with the time needed to thoroughly test such a system.

The system that will be in place will have a computer operational 24 hours a day with the ability to give information to users, and get information from them. The user interface will be (or at least resemble) a BBS. It will be configured to print out any reports at any time, so that meteorologists will be able simply "tear-off" the report and keep it on file. There will be no direct interaction with the meteorologists, after all, even if one were available and licensed, he or she cannot operate because he or she is "on-duty" and being paid. And there will be little interaction with the Net Control Operator - mostly because he or she will be actively operating the voice net. So keyboard chats with the NCO will not be needed to file a report.

Another feature of this system will be the ability to get timely information concerning the exact nature of any watches or warnings that have been posted for the Central Warning Area that we cover. This will allow County NCO's to get updated information without the need to interrupt the flow of the net, if he or she so desires.

Naturally, all of this information will be available through the voice net as it always has been. As time goes on, however, we expect that a lot of our participating counties will want to take advantage of this addition to the severe weather spotting system.

Look for this to come next spring, along with detailed instructions on operation. We'll make this information available to the ham community as soon as the system is operational.



## Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)  
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary  
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959



The April 21, 1998 minutes were approved as published in BSSS. A copy of the May 19, 1998 minutes was passed around to the members present and approved. Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, gave the treasurer's report. He also mentioned that there are 29 club members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Joseph Rowland, N9PRF upgraded from his recent upgrade of Advance to Extra. Congratulations Joe.

OLD BUSINESS: Steve Schulze, Bill Klinkner and Bill Hommel actually made it out to Bob Johnson's place and brought back 15+ boxes of old radio magazines such as QST: 1930 through 1998; CQ: 1946 through 1971; Radio magazine: 1937 through 1942 (missing 22 issues) and every issue of smoke signals.

Committee reports: Swap Swapfest - announcements to various magazines. Amateur Radio Trader donated a one year subscription as a door prize. Five tables were sold. Field Day - Discussed who wanted to do what and several club members expressed their disappointment when they heard someone's wife would NOT be doing the cooking as she has done in the past as she had other plans for the weekend. Steve asked for volunteers who would be willing to work on the paperwork.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Buck Night: winner was Dave Sparring, KB9CSW who promptly donated his one dollar winnings to the Field Day Beverage Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR: FIRST TUESDAY of the month (Jul 7; Aug 4; Sep 1; Oct 6; Nov 3; Dec 1 and Christmas party on the 18th).

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday July 7, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. room 14, Baraboo Civic Center.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary

The following members were present:

Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
B. Harrison	not yet	Reedsburg
Joe Rowland	N9PRF	Portage
Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Steven Schwoegler	K9WD	Wis. Dells
Bill Hommel	A9QFJ	Baraboo
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo
David Sparring	KB9CSW	Portage
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City
Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo

### YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The May 19, 1998 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by the club president, Steve Schulze, N9UDO.

The minutes of the April meeting were unavailable for review as the minutes were received by BSSS the day it had already gone to press. Bill Klinkner, N9KXX gave the treasurer's report. Liability insurance was paid. Current paid members total twenty-nine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Joe Rowland, N9PRF upgraded to advance and Len Wagner N9XJG upgraded to General. Congratulations!

OLD BUSINESS: Steve Schulze will contact Bob Johnson to make arrangements to pick-up the magazines he offered to give to the club. The club did not participate in this year's Circus Heritage days.

Committee Report - Swap Fest. PC Disks will return and two clocks were donated by MFJ for door prizes.

NEW BUSINESS: Initial discussion on Field Day which will be held June 27 and 28th. Discussed meeting dates for the remainder of the year. It was decided to switch from the third Tuesday of each month to the first as the third Tuesday could result a delay of the minutes being published in a timely manner. Steve Schulze will check with the Civic Center to see if the room would be available those days.

Buck Night Winner was Jim Paul, N9LKY who donated his winnings to the Field Day Beverage Fund. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary

The following members were present:

Joe Rowland	N9PRF	Portage
Art Kleefisch	W9WSS	Baraboo
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo
Steven Schwoegler	K9WD	Wis. Dells
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Bill Hommel	KA9QFJ	Baraboo
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City

## Amateur Radio & Computer Show

Ham Radios

Racine Megacycle Club  
Sunday, July 26th, 1998

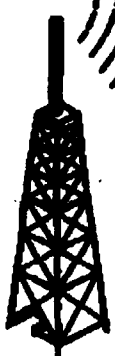
Amateur Exams!

Computers

South Hills Country Club  
on E Frontage Rd  
I-94 between Hwy 20 & K  
Dealer Setup 6:00am  
Public 8:00-2:00pm

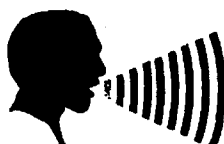
Door Prizes!

Free Forums!



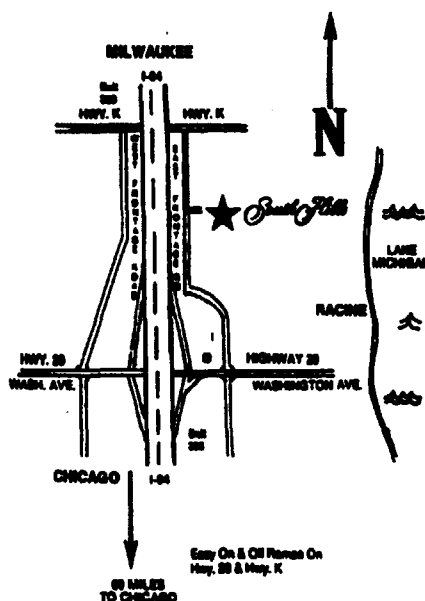
Electronics

Free Tailgating!



AIR CONDITIONED!

Amateur Exams  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



Free Parking!



Good Food & Beverages!

Advanced Admission Tickets \$4.00  
Admission at the door \$5.00  
8 ft Tables \$8.00  
w/ Electricity +\$1.00

Mail with S.A.S.E. Make check payable to Racine Megacycle Club, P.O. Box 3 Racine, WI 53401-0003  
Phone (414) 632-4941/(414) 554-7565

Advanced Admission Tickets \$4.00 (Required with Table Reservation)  
Table Reservation \$8.00 (Advanced ticket also required)  
Electricity \$1.00  
Total

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



Janet & Paul Fritsch

Free Delivery  
Free Insurance Billing  
Competitive Prices  
Canes, Crutches, Walkers and Wheelchairs  
Rentals & Sales



1212 6th STREET  
BARABOO, WISCONSIN



# SHOPPER'S GUIDE

## SWAPFESTS



1997 WINNERS  
Christopher D. Molek, KB9GTK  
Richland Center, WI  
Steven D. Miller, KB9DFE  
Spooner, WI  
Amy L. Tlachac, N9TLN  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

**27TH ANNUAL MIDWINTER  
SWAPFEST**  
WAUKESHA EXPOSITION  
CENTER  
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN  
**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 9, 1999**

Both sponsored by:  
**THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.**  
P. O. BOX 1072 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

**HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!**  
**MADISON SWAPFEST**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1999**  
Middleton Conference Center  
(Same place as 1998 with new name)  
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive  
Just west of intersection of Beltline and Greenway Blvd.  
Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY  
P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890  
Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

**SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**  
**SWAPFEST 98**  
**July 11, 1998**  
(Held every July)  
**American Legion Park**  
**Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI**  
(414) 762-3235 Extension 58  
P. O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172

**FOX CITIES HAMFEST**  
**Sunday, November 8, 1998**  
**Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 north of Kaukauna**  
HAMFEST INFO: Chad Pennings, N9PRC  
1912 Russett Ct., Apt. 7 • Appleton WI 54914  
(920) 993-0485  
EXAM INFO: Larry Siebers, KD9IA • (920) 759-1167  
• [HTTP://W9ZL.AMPR.ORG](http://W9ZL.AMPR.ORG)

**Lakeshore Hamfest**  
**and Computer Swapfest**  
**Manitowoc County Expo**  
Intersection of Hwys. 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R  
**Saturday, May 9, 1998**  
For more information, call:  
Glenn, AA9MT: 920-684-7096  
Red, N9GHE: 920-684-9097  
ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

**TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS**  
**HAMFEST 1998**  
**YOUR SPRING FAVORITE!**  
**Sunday, March 15, 1998**  
**Jefferson County Fairgrounds**  
TCARC • 213 Frederick Street 414-563-6381  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Evenings

**The Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs presents the**  
**21st annual Swapfest and Auction**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1998**  
U.S. Army Reserve Center • Junction City, WI  
**BIGGER AND BETTER!**  
Indoor, 3 times larger than last year • Huge paved lot for tailgaters •  
Indoor dealers unload at table • Saturday setup and security • FCC exams  
at 9 AM • Food all day long  
BIG AUCTION STARTS AT NOON, COL. BRUCE WALTHER, W9QAH, AUCTIONEER  
Information: Call, write, or email John Feltz, W9JN  
973 E. 1st St., Junction City WI 54443-9614 • (715) 457-2506  
E-MAIL: jfw9jn@tzn.net

**Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club**  
**HAMFEST**  
**Saturday, July 11, 1998 8:00 AM**  
Eau Claire County Exposition Center  
Advance Tickets \$ 5.00 at the door \$ 6.00  
Tables \$ 10.00 - Tailgate \$ 5.00  
S.A.S.E. to: ECARC  
P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867  
<http://www.ecarc.org>

**RACINE AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER SHOW**  
**Sunday, July 26, 1998**  
**8 A.M. - 2 P.M.**  
SOUTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB I-94  
East Frontage Road Between Highway 20 and Highway K  
**OUTDOOR AND INDOOR SALES**  
Free Tailgating • Air Conditioned • Commercial Dealers • Forums  
TABLES \$8.00  
Advance Tickets SASE and \$4.00  
Send to RMC, P.O. Box 3, Racine, WI 53401

**Ozaukee Radio Club**  
**20TH ANNUAL RADIO AND  
COMPUTER SWAPFEST**  
**Saturday, May 2, 1998**  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center  
Intersection of Highway 60 and County I  
Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,  
5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222  
Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club  
W58 N985 Essex Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1439

**Circus City Swapfest**  
Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club  
**Saturday August 8, 1998 • 7 a.m. - noon**  
**Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI**  
Vendors • Concessions  
Camping • Free Parking  
Tail Gate Area  
\$4 - Advanced  
\$5 - At Gate  
8 Foot Tables - \$5  
Steve Schulze, N9UDQ (608) 356-2313/356-4777  
<http://www.thelox.com/~sschulze/hamfest.htm>  
Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (608) 643-6908/643-6453



**Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.**  
**AUCTION**  
**February 23, 1999 • 7:00 p.m.**  
**American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street**  
**Eau Claire, WI**  
CONTACT:  
Steve Hart, KA9OMC 715-665-2374  
E616 810th Ave. Knapp, WI 54749

## PRODUCTS AND SERVICES


You don't have to go very far! ...  
**the World's largest Ham Dealer is**  
**located right here in Wisconsin!**  
**AMATEUR ELECTRONIC SUPPLY®**  
5710 W. Good Hope Road • Milwaukee, WI 53223  
414-358-0333 • Toll Free 1-800-558-0411  
BBS 414-358-3472 • <http://www.aesham.com>  
★Complete Inventories ★Competitive Pricing  
★Top Trades ★Quality Used Gear ★Same Day  
Shipping ★Service Department ★Since 1958

**Radio Recyclers**  
**USED HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT**  
**Neil Lawton WK9Q**  
[www.execpc.com/~radiorec](http://www.execpc.com/~radiorec) [radiorec@execpc.com](mailto:radiorec@execpc.com)  
**414-760-3000**  
**Radio Estate Liquidators**  
over 40,000 tubes and other antique radio parts  
5702 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53223  
(Located next door to AES)  
Buy • Sell

Phone: 414-375-6900 Fax: 414-377-6440  
**K9---CAN-FIX**  
**AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT REPAIR**  
**All Monitor Repair Company**  
Dick Scarvaci  
K9 CAN  
371 North Port Washington Road  
Grafton, WI 53024-9767

**Craig Henderson** Phone (419) 352-4465  
**N8DJB** Hours: 10 - 5  
**Rotor Doctor**  
**Rotor Parts and Repair**  
  
7368 S.R. 105 Pemberville, OH 43450

(715) 644-2112 FAX: (715) 644-2621  
**RICH'S GENERAL STORE AND SURPLUS**  
Route 2 • Stanley WI 54768  
**"YOUR DISCOUNT HAM SOURCE"**  
Alinco mobile HF, VHF/UHF, and HTs  
Ask if any Alinco factory closeouts are currently available!  
BOOKS • CASSETTES • VIDEO TAPES • GARMIN GPS  
Jo, N9MEI Rich, N9MEH  
(800) 646-RICH

**BATTERIES**  
BATTERIES FOR ALL YOUR POWER REQUIREMENTS  
NICKEL CADMIUM  
SEALED LEAD ACID  
GEL CELLS  
ALKALINE  
LITHIUM  
**E.H. YOST & COMPANY**  
2211-D PARVIEW RD.  
MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN 53562  
TELEPHONE (608) 831-3443  
FAX (608) 831-1082

**TOWER ELECTRONICS**  
THE HAMS DIME STORE & WHOLESALE TO THE WORLD  
**ORDERS 1-800-662-3422**  
**TECH INFO 920-435-3359**  
**FAX LINE 920-435-2980**  
  
SCOTT KB9AMM & JILL KB9PZF E-MAIL KB9AMM@JUNO.COM  
P.O. BOX 12631 GREEN BAY, WI 54307-2631  
PRODUCTS FOR HAMS FROM HAMS SINCE 1978

**ARRL**  
**Publications HOTLINE**  
Call toll free! 888-277-5289  
e-mail: [pubsales@arrl.org](mailto:pubsales@arrl.org)  
Check us out on the Web:  
<http://www.arrl.org/>  
• Complete Publications Catalog  
• Membership application and services

**VCR SERVICE**  
**North Freedom Electronics**  
Same day service by appointment  
VCR Cleaning: \$19.95  
Computers • Musical Instruments  
Stereos • Auto Sound • CDs • CBs  
Sorry, no TVs or stacked stereo systems  
HOURS MAY VARY - CALL AHEAD  
John Schmelzer (608) 522-4366  
201 E. Walnut, Box 18 North Freedom, WI 53951